

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT No. LAG-A-00-02-00001-00

**PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND
DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the regulations of the Cooperative Agreement No. LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR or the Institute), the IIHR submits its status report on the activities that took place from 1 April through 20 May 2005, date when the components *promotion of a culture of inclusion* and *conflict prevention* concluded, and from 1 April through 30 June 2005, for the component *democratization of political parties*. The life of the latter was extended by USAID until September 2006, via an amendment requested by the IIHR in 2004.

At the time of presenting this report, USAID is considering a new amendment request that seeks an extension of the life of the three components that integrate the aforementioned agreement.

II. THE MISSION AND NATURE OF THE IIHR

The Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR) is an independent international institution, created in 1980 under an international agreement that mandates it to engage in educational and research activities related to human rights, and to promote the observance of these rights and of democracy throughout the Americas.

The IIHR's Statute defines it as an academic institution, which means that it refrains from investigating cases, presenting or supporting formal complaints against States, or monitoring the compliance of States with their international human rights obligations. This self-imposed limitation has proven to be an effective tool for the IIHR, as it has permitted the Institute to serve as a facilitator of dialogue among the different actors in the human rights movement, and between them and government representatives.

Politically, the work of the IIHR is predicated on the idea that the effective exercise of human rights is only possible within the framework of pluralist and representative democracy. In other words, the IIHR maintains that there is a close link between the full exercise of political democracy and the effective exercise of human rights.

To achieve this, democracy must transcend merely formal considerations and must incorporate excluded and disadvantaged sectors of the population. The indigenous peoples of the Americas, and women as a social group, are perhaps the most important examples. For this reason, the IIHR focuses especially on these segments of the population.

In methodological terms, the work of the IIHR is based on three premises:

- An integrated approach is essential for human rights work. Human rights constitute an integrated system, in which no single right, group of rights, or so-called 'generation' of human rights, takes precedence. Economic, social and cultural rights are as important for the effective exercise of human rights as civil and political rights.
- An interdisciplinary approach is essential for human rights work. As human rights cut across the entire social fabric, no single academic discipline can adequately address their complexity. The issues involved include those of a legal, political, historical, anthropological and philosophical nature. Only an approach that incorporates all these perspectives can deal with such a complex phenomenon.
- A multisectoral approach is essential for human rights work. Human rights issues concern different agents and sectors of society. Activists, government officials, political leaders and representatives of minorities all have a stake and share a common interest in human rights, which have attained a political consensus and which allow for different perspectives and are a source of strong internal tensions.

III. CURRENT STRUCTURE

The General Assembly, the Institute's highest governing body, is responsible for setting policies and the general parameters for the work of the IIHR. It is made up of renowned human rights experts from all parts of the hemisphere. The Assembly meets biannually but has created a Steering Committee that advises the Executive Director throughout the year.

The Executive Director, Roberto Cuéllar, from El Salvador, is responsible for carrying out the IIHR's mission as set out in its Statute, and for implementing institutional policy. He is also in charge of efforts to secure financial resources, overseeing the use of the funds and rendering accounts. The Executive Director, the Directors of the three Operating Departments and the Administrative-Financial Coordinator make up the team of the General Directorate.

A special office assists the Executive Director in implementing Institute policy related to the cooperation agencies, and the special programs for Cuba and Colombia.

For operational purposes, responsibility for implementing the IIHR's activities is assigned to the following:

Department of Civil Society Entities. This area carries out activities of human rights training and promotion with organized sectors of civil society (organizations devoted to human rights in general, and the rights of women, migrant and indigenous peoples in particular); organizes specialized fora for the discussion of emerging issues in the field of human rights; and gathers, publishes and distributes specialized materials.

Department of Public Institutions. This area is responsible for activities of human rights promotion and training with the judicial, legislative and executive branches of governments, the military, the police and the prison system; promotes legislative reform designed to improve access by members of the public to their fundamental rights; promotes the institution of the ombudsman throughout the hemisphere and provides advisory assistance to existing

ombudsmen's offices; provides advisory assistance to ministries of education for the modernization of academic programs; and gathers, publishes and distributes specialized materials.

Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL). Among its activities, CAPEL provides advisory and technical assistance to organizations responsible for carrying out electoral processes; holds fora for discussions and promotion with different political sectors; analyzes and discusses the issue of governance with political actors; provides advisory assistance and training and conducts research aimed at strengthening political parties; sends missions to observe elections in all parts of the hemisphere; and gathers, publishes and distributes specialized materials.

The units, on the other hand, are responsible for proposing and implementing Institute policies related to their respective fields of action, based on the guidelines established by the Board and the Executive Directorate.

Administrative-Accounting and General Services Unit: comprised of the following sections: treasury, accounting, informatics, human resources and general services.

Applied Research Unit: responsible for the Institute's policy in the areas of thematic research, integrated plans, special programs and topics that cut across all the Institute's areas of work. It oversees the "active promotion" approach, particularly as regards the three core topics (political participation, education and access to justice) and their impact in the countries on which the IIHR places special emphasis.

Educational Unit: designs, tests and implements the methodologies, teaching aids and educational and evaluative techniques that the IIHR uses in its training activities. It is creating and will maintain a data base on educational policies for primary, secondary and higher education in Latin America, and proposes ways of harmonizing the IIHR's action with educational reform projects in the region.

Information and Editorial Service Unit: responsible for the IIHR's editorial policy, for incorporating the use of Internet into the Institute's work of promoting human rights, for meeting the information needs of the target population, and for strengthening the IIHR's formal and informal networks.

A. PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

1. PROJECT: INCLUSION THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

1.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The Inclusion Project concluded on 20 May, so this report covers only the period 1 April - 20 May. The project's main objective was to enhance the capacity of women's, indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations to influence the agenda of the civil society human rights movement, as part of their efforts to translate equality before the law into real equality and thus permit these groups to exercise their rights more fully, which will also strengthen democracy.

As mentioned previously, the project was authorized to use the resources generated under the Negotiated Indirect Cost-Rate Agreement (NICRA) as of 1 March 2005. Prior to that, the staff conducted an analysis and selected the activities that would be implemented during the period under the national projects in Colombia (National legislation for indigenous peoples) and Panama (Facilitate enabling environment to promote equal opportunities in the job market for the Afro-descendant population in Panama). These national projects and the one in Peru (Legislation for equality between women and men) originated from the Strategic Meeting of Advocacy Organizations-Networks (Costa Rica, 19-21 August 2003). As planned, in Colombia the project held a *National workshop to provide follow-up to the territorial agenda of Colombia's indigenous peoples*. The objective was to monitor and evaluate the progress of the efforts of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) to implement the territorial agenda of the indigenous peoples in that country. In the case of Panama, an activity was carried out to disseminate information about the scope of the project (Law to Combat Labor Discrimination, Sustainable Development Master Plan for Afro-Panamanians, Political Platform of Afro-Panamanians) and its accountability process.

Pursuant to the annual work plan, the project staff continued to:

- Disseminate in the countries and permanently update the content of the specialized sections *Diversidades* and *DerechosMujer*, with information designed to support the implementation of the projects and advocacy actions in the respective countries
- Communicate with the counterparts concerning the technical assistance needs that arose during the reporting period
- Provide technical assistance and participate in the implementation of key advocacy actions and the work plans

The data on the two specialized sections of the IIHR's website, *DerechosMujer* and *Diversidades*, is for the entire quarter (April-June), as the WebTrends software generates quarterly reports. This also makes it possible to compare the figures with those for previous quarters.

1.2 ANNUAL GOAL

- To help enhance advocacy actions within the framework of ongoing negotiations regarding positive legislation or public policies that promote the rights of women, indigenous peoples and the Afro-descendant community in selected countries.

1.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

1.3.1. National Project: Legislation for equality between women and men (Peru)

1.3.1.1. Description

The aim of the work plan in Peru was to foster an enabling environment for the passage of the Equal Opportunities Act currently before the Legislature. Three strategies were used to implement the plan: a) coordination and mobilization; b) political advocacy; and, c) communication and dissemination. The organizers invited women's NGOs representing diversity (the indigenous and Afro-descendant communities), and a number of civil society groups to take part in the various activities. The plan included interaction among social and political stakeholders (executive and legislative branches, political parties and the Ombudsman's Office).

The project's 10 counterpart organizations-networks set up the "Women for Equal Opportunities" Collective in Peru.

The activities to be implemented under the work plan were scheduled for the final phase of the project (April-May 2005).

1.3.1.1.1 Workshops - meetings

The activities carried out as part of the **coordination and mobilization** strategy were as follows:

Coordination, planning and evaluation meetings. The 10 organizations-networks that make up the "Women for Equal Opportunities" Collective held two working meetings in Lima - one on 28 April and another on 28 May. The first was used to coordinate the work and review how the objectives for the activities programmed and yet to be implemented were to be attained. At the second, the participants took stock of what the project had achieved and decided that the Collective would continue its advocacy activities for the rest of the year, as the process now forms part of the working objectives of the member organizations.

Workshop entitled "Women and work with gender equity." Held 23 April, in Lima. Organized by the Liaison Council of UNI-Peru, the CUT-Base Almenara Federation and the National Union of Social Security Nurses of Rebagliatti Hospital. The Collective gave a presentation on women's rights and gender equity, and reported on the status of the bill before Congress. Roughly 30 people took part.

Workshop entitled "Leadership in union management." Held 30 April, in Lima. Organized by the National Union of Social Security Nurses of Rebagliatti Hospital, to equip nursing professionals with leadership tools for their work. The Collective gave a presentation on equity and equal opportunities and took advantage of the opportunity to disseminate information about the bill.

Forum entitled "Equal opportunities and participatory budget." Held 4 May and organized by the Women's Collective of the Lambayeque Region, comprising Centro Esperanza, Grupo Mujer, Centro de Formación y Promoción Humana Santa Ángela, Círculos de Mujeres, Central Nacional de Mujeres Micaela Bastidas, Red Nacional de Promoción de la Mujer, Grupo Impulsor Nacional, CICAP, Horizonte Humano, Organización Nacional de la Mujer Azucarera, Asociación del Adulto Mayor, Comunidad Laical Santa Ángela and Asociación de Biohuertos Comunes. The Collective explained the events leading up to the bill and its current status, and the campaign for its passage through Congress. Some 110

people took part, including members of NGOs working to achieve gender equity and young university students of both sexes (around half of the participants).

Other activities. Project staff took part in three other activities. They shared information about advocacy experiences and strategies developed by the Collective with support from the project, and the current status of the bill:

- Course-workshop on advocacy for sexual and reproductive rights, under the aegis of the Master's Degree Program on Gender, Sexuality and Reproductive Health of Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University. In May, for 23 students
- Working meeting on information technologies and gender, 8-10 May, involving communicators from nine Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Uruguay and Peru)
- Meeting with the director of the recently inaugurated Institute for Women and the Family of the Ministry for Women's Affairs and Social Development, 11 May

1.3.1.1.2 Political advocacy

Congress was in recess during January and February this year, with lawmakers returning to work on 1 March. The project then resumed its activities with Congress.

Presence in Congress. In April and May, representatives of the Collective attended the sessions of the Justice and Human Rights Committee in an observer capacity, to monitor developments and ensure a political presence. This also made it possible to lobby lawmakers and their advisers constantly about the bill.

Public hearing in Congress on "Contribution made by the regions to equal opportunities." Held in Congress on 20 May, following intense negotiations and working meetings with lawmakers and Regional Counselors during the first half of May, including a coordination meeting in Lima with the Counselors.

Congress was represented by one of the Vice Presidents of the Board of Administration and the President of the Justice and Human Rights Committee. Eighteen Regional Counselors took part from 14 regions of the country that have equal opportunity plans (Tumbes, Tacna, Huancavelinca, Arequipa, Lambayeque, Moquegua, Junín, Ica, San Martín, Piura, Lima, Apurímac, Callao and Pasco). Representatives of 20 women's organizations and the Ombudsman's Office and the Ministry of Social Development, as well as members of the Collective, also participated.

The objectives of this hearing were to publicize the contributions made by the regions with regard to equal opportunities; bring more pressure to bear for the enactment of the bill; and facilitate the meeting of the Counselors with their representatives in Congress.

The gist of the discussions at the public hearing was as follows. The Vice President of the Governing Council of Congress welcomed everyone to the public hearing and reiterated his commitment to the bill. The President of the Justice and Human Rights Committee explained the committee's role in studying the bill and the views of the different members. Each Counselor then described the progress in her respective region with regard to equal opportunities and the mechanisms used (work plans), and the partnerships developed with women's organizations in the regions. The Collective spoke about the importance of decentralizing the actions for gender equality, and how a law could facilitate the design and implementation of national and regional public policies.

During the public hearing, the Regional Counselors read out a "Declaration in favor of a law on equal opportunities with gender equity" and gave copies to the lawmakers present. Several

Counselors also met with their congressional representatives (6) to present them with copies of the declaration and press for prompt consideration of the bill.

The Collective's activities included establishing smooth communications with the Regional Counselors following the conclusion of the project on 20 May. The Counselors report interaction with lawmakers from their regions and from their party. Several have also attended meetings of the Justice and Human Rights Committee as observers and sent letters to the President of Congress requesting that the bill be enacted.

As in previous reports, an update of the context is including in the Background / Rationale section.

1.3.1.1.3 Communication and dissemination

In addition to the use of the press, radio and TV, this strategy calls for close coordination with other, similar committees comprised of various organizations involved in the issue. These organizations are committed to multiplying the information in their own activities - radio and television programs, printed and digital bulletins, Web pages, email discussion lists, etc. The following activities were implemented in April and May as part of the **dissemination campaign**:

Distribution and production of information. Campaign materials were distributed under the slogan "Women for Equal Opportunities" (fliers, leaflets, stickers, posters, letter for signatures) at the different workshops in which representatives of the project took part. A brochure was produced on the most important activities carried out during the advocacy process supported by the project, which is distributed among all the organizations as a sort of performance report.

Bulletins and press releases. Six electronic bulletins were produced and sent to the databases of organizations and the media (over 3000 contacts). In addition, to disseminate information about the public hearing with Regional Counselors, four press releases were sent to 15 national newspapers and magazines, 4 TV channels and 6 regional radio stations.

Electronic mailings to lawmakers: Various documents related to the bill were emailed to 25 lawmakers and parliamentary advisers. A number of organizations also sent letters to their representatives in Congress, from regions such as Arequipa, Junín, Ica, Piura, Apurímac, Moquegua and Pasco.

Use of the media. The national political situation during April and May had a negative effect on the press's coverage of the bill and the public hearing with the Regional Counselors. The media focused on the debates in Congress on whether the President was responsible for the false signatures used to register his party for the 2000 elections.

As noted in the last quarterly report (January-March 2005), the members of the Collective (Estudio para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer, DEMUS, the Movimiento Manuela Ramos, the Movimiento Amplio de Mujeres-Línea Fundacional and Milenio Radio) posted information on their websites about their work to secure a law on equal opportunities between women and men.

DerechosMujer, specialized section of the IIHR's website. The *DerechosMujer* section of the Institute's website (<http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer>) was also used to disseminate information. Project staff constantly updated and added to the specialized content and materials, including the project outputs and information about the advocacy actions in Peru. The entire process was systematized and the information prepared so that the

strategies and the expertise acquired are available online for organizations interested in replicating the experience (<http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer/acerca.htm>).

As of 30 June, *DerechosMujer* contained 3679 items in its different sections (Acerca de nosotros, Para compartir, Documentos, Protección de derechos), as well as a directory of 405 agencies devoted to the promotion of women's rights. The specialized section received a total of 22,407 hits between 1 April and 30 June - an average of 246 visits per day that lasted an average of 10:43 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software). The monthly bulletin on updates to the specialized section of the IIHR's website is emailed to 3138 addresses.

1.3.1.2. Method

The work plan was implemented in a participatory manner, involving or expanding the base of support with other civil society NGOs, including organizations that do not represent the specific target population that would benefit from the legislation which is being promoted. Efforts were also made to increase the interaction between the social and political actors, and include ethnic diversity.

The "Mujeres por la Igualdad de Oportunidades" Collective comprised the 10 organizations-networks that attended the Strategic Meeting in Costa Rica (2003). These were: the Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán; el Centro de Promoción y Capacitación del Oriente (CEPCO - Tarapoto); DEMUS - Estudio para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer; la Federación de Mujeres Organizadas de Comedores Populares Autogestionarios y Afines de Lima y Callao (FEMOCCPAALC); el Grupo Impulsor Nacional "Mujeres por la Igualdad Real" (GIN); el Movimiento Amplio de Mujeres - Línea Fundacional (MAM-LF); the Movimiento Manuela Ramos; Radio Milenia; the Red Nacional de Promoción de la Mujer (RNPM); and the Movimiento El Pozo. They worked in close coordination with the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights in Peru (CLADEM-Peru).

The Collective met to coordinate and plan actions. Internally, the project coordinates working committees for each strategy called for under the plan: a) coordination and mobilization; b) political advocacy; and, c) communication and dissemination.

The workshops/meetings used a participatory and inclusive methodology that fostered training and the sharing of experiences and opinions among those who took part. The activities were also held in different provinces, to facilitate information sharing and dissemination among women in different geographical areas and from various sectors, thus ensuring that not everything was concentrated in the capital.

Different forms of dissemination were used to reach urban and rural women and national, regional and local organizations through the mass media, personalized e-mailings and traditional mail. The use of technological communication platforms made it easier to send/receive invitations and information to/from a large number of people (email, discussion lists and electronic networks). The organizations also used their own resources (radio and television programs, printed and digital bulletins, Web pages, email discussion lists, etc.) to increase the coverage of the information and dissemination efforts. This was complemented with information on the processes and specialized information, available in the *DerechosMujer* section of the IIHR's website, which is expanded and updated continually.

1.3.1.3. Background / Rationale

The national plan to support legislation guaranteeing equality between women and men in Peru arose out of the Strategic Meeting of Organizations-Networks for Advocacy (Costa Rica,

19-21 August 2003). Used to implement the national project in that country, the plan consisted of three strategies: a) coordination and mobilization; b) political advocacy; and, c) communication and dissemination. The plan for April and May called for the continuation of the work carried out in 2003 and 2004M; the activities were fine-tuned based on what had already been achieved.

The Collective reports that the current context in Congress with regard to the bill is as follows:

- The situation described in the last two quarterly reports (October-December 2004 and January-March 2005) continued during this reporting period. To all intents and purposes, Congress halted discussion of the matters on its agenda and appointed a special commission to investigate the scandal involving the falsification of the signatures used to register the *Perú Posible* political party that brought the current President to power. The commission's report was highly controversial, as the President was absolved of any responsibility in a close vote (54 - 44). The national media focused primarily on this contentious issue.
- The most recent opinion poll gave Congress a very low approval rating (8%). Certain individual lawmakers are more popular, such as the current President of Congress (Antero Flores Araoz).
- The situation in the committees has not changed since the January-March report: the President of Congress, in a meeting with the authors of the bill, the presidents of the Committee for Women's Affairs and the Justice and Human Rights Committee, asked them to reach consensus on a single text. The meeting failed to achieve the proposed objective and the report containing the text approved by the Justice and Human Rights Committee, which is the most favorable, was sent back to the committee for further review. The report of the Committee for Women's Affairs remains unchanged. The bill must overcome these hurdles before being submitted to the full legislature.

The President of Congress has tried to resolve the problem, proposing to the two committees that they produce a single alternative text for discussion by the full legislature. This is now being done.

- Discussion of the bill continues to be a priority of the equity and social justice agenda for the 2004-2005 legislative period. It is item #10 on the agenda for June and due to be discussed on the 16th and 17th. However, the 2005 legislature concludes in June, so if the bill is not discussed efforts will have to be made to ensure it is included in the next session of the legislature.
- The last year of this legislature is expected to be complex, with national elections just around the corner. Several lawmakers have resigned from their parties, changing the dynamic within Congress.
- Equality between women and men does not appear to be an issue on which lawmakers find it easy to agree. In contrast, a law to promote and strengthen the family was passed in record time, in a question of months, with 55 votes in favor, 18 abstentions and 0 votes against. The law in question was introduced by the Ministry for Women's Affairs and Social Development (MIMDES), which also promoted the bill on equality during the previous government. It has not been actively involved in the issue during this administration, however.

Clearly, the advocacy efforts in Congress continue to be the key if the bill is to be considered by the full legislature. The project has concluded but the Collective has pledged to continue

contacting lawmakers and their advisers and preparing specific documents as inputs throughout 2005.

1.3.1.4. Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The counterpart organizations responsible for implementing the plan in Peru, organized under the banner of the “Mujeres por la igualdad de oportunidades” Collective, convened and handled the technical and logistical organization of the different activities; produced the dissemination bulletins, letters and other communications, as well as working documents and materials for the dissemination campaign; sent out and distributed these materials; increased its ties with other civil society entities; organized the meetings with lawmakers and their advisers; drafted the corresponding narrative report on implementation; and, coordinated and planned the work with the members of the Collective.

The IIHR monitored and provided technical assistance with the implementation of all the activities called for under the work plan. It was also responsible for continually updating the specialized section of the Institute’s website, *DerechosMujer*, which includes uploading documentation on advocacy produced under the project and information on activities carried out in Peru for the implementation of the national plan and the systematization of the advocacy process undertaken.

1.3.1.5. Intermediate Steps

- General monitoring of the implementation of the work plan to ensure the activities were completed according to schedule
- Updating of the mapping of lawmakers and those who could support the bills
- Updating of directories of organizations
- Creation of database of women’s civil society organizations
- Decision regarding which key organizations should be invited to the different activities, issuing of invitations and follow-up to confirm who would be taking part; coordination with the counterpart organizations for these activities
- Planning, methodological and logistical organization, implementation of the activities
- Issuing of invitations to or participation in coordination and planning meetings
- Preparation and implementation of presentations to forums that address subjects related to legislation on equality
- Planning, scheduling and participation in meetings with lawmakers and their advisers
- Preparation of documents for working meetings in Congress and the public hearing and letters to lawmakers
- Production of informational materials and bulletins for the media
- Preparation of materials for uploading to the specialized section of the Institute’s website, *DerechosMujer*, and continual updating of the section’s contents
- Drafting of the final report (April-May 2005) on the implementation of the project, including a review of the process

1.3.1.6. Results or Outputs

- Discussion of the bill continues to be a priority of the equity and social justice agenda for the 2004-2005 legislative period. It is item #10 on the agenda for June and due to be discussed on the 16th and 17th. However, the 2005 legislature concludes in June, so if the matter is not addressed, efforts will have to be made to ensure it is included in the next legislature
- Continuity of the advocacy actions with lawmakers and their advisers, mainly the members of the Justice and Human Rights Committee

- Consensus-building with 18 Regional Counselors and public hearing in Congress with them
- Presentation of the Declaration of the 18 Regional Counselors and facilitation of meetings with lawmakers from their regions
- Continuity of the communication and dissemination campaign, with digital and printed communications being sent out; 6 newsletters and 4 press releases were distributed. Around 3000 people received them
- The content and materials available in the specialized section of the institutional website, *DerechosMujer*, continued to be updated and expanded. As of 30 June, there were 3679 entries containing diverse information and a directory of 405 organizations
- The number of visitors to the website continued to rise, as verified by the WebTrends software. Between 1 April and 31 June, there were 22,407 visits, an average of 246 per day. They lasted an average of 10:43 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).

1.3.1.7. Impact Indicators

“The women’s social movement has a greater capacity to coordinate joint work and advocacy”

The advocacy efforts in Congress continued, although developments in the national political arena affected the issues on the agenda. The positive situation described in the October-December 2004 report changed (Congress had made discussion of the bill a priority). Although the bill still forms part of the priority agenda, the two committees involved (Justice and Human Rights and Women’s Affairs and Social Development) have yet to agree on a single text based on their respective reports to the full legislature. They are in the process of doing so. The matter is listed as item #10 on the agenda for June (to be discussed during the sessions on the 16th and 17th). However, the 2005 legislature concludes in June, so if the matter is not debated efforts will have to be made to ensure it is included in the next legislature.

Efforts were made to strengthen the coordination and teamwork among the members of the “Mujeres por la Igualdad de Oportunidades” Collective, and cooperation and joint action with other organizations belonging to the women’s movement.

The work of disseminating information about equal opportunities in the media was stepped up through the coordinated use of the organizations’ own resources (radio and television programs, printed and digital bulletins, Web pages, email discussion lists, etc.).

The project was “decentralized” to facilitate close coordination and partnerships among various organizations - the workshops / meetings were held in different regions of the country, so that not everything was concentrated in the capital (Lima).

As stated in the previous quarterly report (January-March), the organizations are keen to make use of the information available in the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the Institute’s website. The report highlighted the fact that the average daily number of visitors rose by 55. Between April and June, the average increase in the number of visitors was 76 per day.

The following table gives a breakdown of the number of visits to the section during 2004 and the first half of 2005, showing the sustained increase in the number of visits throughout the period.

Quarter	Number of vi	Average per day	Average length visits
1 January - 30 March 2004	5,330	58	10:55'
1 April - 30 June 2004	6,971	76	09:06'
1 July - 30 September 2004	8,414	91	11:00'
1 October - 09 December 2004	8,189	115	11:40'
1 January - 30 March 2005	15,344	170	12:12'
1 April - 30 June 2005	22,407	246	10:43'
TOTAL	66,625	126	11:38'

“More partnerships among the various stakeholders”

The counterpart organizations have broadened their advocacy agenda through information sharing and the support and active involvement of other women’s organizations.

The public hearing in Congress with the Regional Counselors led to a new alliance for the Collective. The counselors are now involved in advocacy actions with lawmakers from their regions.

The Collective constantly receives invitations from women’s organizations and other entities to provide instruction in women’s rights and about the bill.

The working relationship that has been developed with parliamentary advisors and sympathetic lawmakers has enabled the Collective to convey positions, facilitate specialized documents and enjoy expeditious channels of communication in Congress.

“NGOs, stakeholders and decision makers more familiar with the bill and its contents”

The continuity of the information processes, involving the distribution of bulletins and various documents about the bill, helps women from different organizations to acquire more knowledge and information.

Having direct contact with lawmakers who support the bill and members of parliamentary committees that are key for promoting the bill in the legislature makes it possible to provide more information on women’s rights and strengthen advocacy.

Means of verification:

- Second and final (two-month) report on the implementation of the work plan
- Reports or minutes of the working meetings of the counterparts
- Documentation related to the different activities: invitations, programs, folders and support documentation distributed
- Lists of participants of each activity
- Digital bulletins, press releases and informational communications
- Presentations made during the public hearing in Congress
- Declaration in support of legislation on equal opportunities with gender equity signed by 18 Regional Counselors
- Up-to-date, expanded database of women’s organizations and the media
- Information available on line in the *DerechosMujer* specialized section of the Institute’s website
- Reports and statistics generated by the WebTrends software, confirming the hits and visits to the specialized section

1.3.2 National Project: Legislation for Indigenous Peoples (Colombia)

1.3.2.1 Description

The National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) was responsible for implementing this project. The objective was to enhance the political advocacy mechanisms of the indigenous movement with respect to Colombia's proposed Land Management Act (LOOT), which establishes specific regulations for the indigenous territorial entities (ETIs). The support for the ONIC raised the profile of the territorial problems of Colombia's indigenous peoples and led to the implementation of political and organizational advocacy actions regarding the various proposals contained in the various proposed versions of the LOOT. As a result, the following outcomes and progress were achieved: a) a territorial policy mandate for Colombia's indigenous peoples; b) the needs of, and threats to, indigenous peoples vis-à-vis territorial matters were prioritized; c) the ONIC and the Colombian Rural Development Institute (INCODER) reached agreement on a work program to meet the indigenous peoples' territorial needs; and, d) progress was made in establishing a single, autonomous information system on Colombia's indigenous territories and peoples.

The training activity scheduled in the plan for 2005 did not take place because the work did not begin until the end of March. The chief priorities were the *National workshop to provide follow-up to the territorial agenda of Colombia's indigenous peoples* (described in section 1.3.2.1.1) and the various political advocacy and communication/dissemination actions dealt with in 1.3.2.1.2 and 1.3.2.1.3.

The following is a description of the activities implemented under the project:

1.3.2.1.1 Workshops-meetings

National workshop to provide follow-up to the territorial agenda of Colombia's indigenous peoples. Bogotá, 16-17 May. The general objective of this event was to monitor and evaluate the progress of the ONIC's efforts to implement the territorial agenda of Colombia's indigenous peoples. Twenty-three people took part, including the indigenous delegates of the National Commission for Indigenous Territories (CNTI), the members of the ONIC's Executive Committee, indigenous lawmakers, members of indigenous networks-organizations that have been involved in the project from the outset (e.g., the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon Region (OPIAC) and the Organization of Indigenous Authorities of Colombia (AICO)) and the IIHR's Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program Officer, who provided technical assistance.

1.3.2.1.1 Political advocacy

Following a consultation activity carried out by the ONIC in February 2005, a work program was drawn up covering several areas. This was in addition to the commitments assumed since 2003 in the area of land management. The project continued to implement advocacy actions (lobbying, negotiation and mobilization) and coordinate the work of the indigenous networks-organizations and peoples with each other and with important actors involved in the issue (lawmakers, consultants, officials of public institutions). The specific actions called for included: a) providing follow-up to, and undertaking advocacy actions for, the passage of the LOOT bill through Congress; b) designing and reaching agreement with the central government on a model Indigenous Development Area; c) conducting a state-of-the-art survey of the indigenous peoples with regard to territorial matters and establishing a single, autonomous system of information on this subject and indigenous peoples in general; d) defining and executing an Action Plan, to provide a definitive response to the indigenous peoples' territorial needs; e) monitoring new bills that would affect indigenous territories and

positioning the indigenous peoples and their leaders and organizations to confront them; f) facilitating the restructuring of INCODER so it can meet the needs of Colombia's indigenous peoples in an integrated way; and, g) seeking a budget appropriation for 2005, to provide a partial solution, for one year, to the territorial needs of the indigenous peoples.

1.3.2.1.2 Communication and dissemination

The information/dissemination/communication activities continued during this quarter, both via the country's TV channels and press, and the resources of the ONIC and its member organizations that are taking part in the national project (bulletins, press releases). The construction of a website for the ONIC also got under way, via which all the information related to the project will also be disseminated.

The IIHR has continued to develop *Diversidades*, the specialized section of its website. In addition to posting daily news updates of interest to the people taking part in the project, it prepares a biweekly bulletin that is emailed to the large number of people registered in its database, which is also updated regularly. To wind up the project, the national projects were also systematized - to provide, among other things, examples of "best practices" in this area. The information includes not only a chronological history of the entire process and some of the main activities carried out, but also the most important documents produced since 2003, which can be accessed via links.

1.3.2.2 Method

The workshop provided an opportunity for the indigenous peoples and their officials and organizational leaders to discuss and reach consensus on policies and actions concerning the national territorial agenda. To ensure the participants played an active part, the activity took the form of discussions. Critical comments, proposals and recommendations were welcomed. Indigenous lawmakers were invited to give an expert presentation on the status of the LOOT bill. This was followed by a discussion on the indigenous organization's work in this area.

To provide background information on the issues addressed, in addition to the indigenous leaders belonging to the CNTI the project invited indigenous lawmakers, people involved in the indigenous peoples' right to land and territory, representatives of other kinds of national indigenous organizations (e.g., the AICO and OPIAC) and the state institutions responsible for territorial issues, such as INCODER.

The President of the ONIC, Luís Evelis Andrade, gave the opening address. Nilson Zurita, Coordinator of the ONIC's Territories, Natural Resources, Environment and Biodiversity Program then presented the objectives and agenda of the workshop. IIHR Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program Officer Cristina Zeledón outlined the national project under way since 2003 with support from USAID.

Once the participants had validated the program for the meeting, there was a presentation on the progress and status of the project to develop a single, autonomous information system for Colombia's indigenous territories and peoples. The matter was then discussed by the participants, to make the pertinent adjustments to the system's projection and coverage. It is regarded as a useful strategy in the indigenous peoples' struggle to secure respect for their rights as collective and private subjects.

The next discussion focused on the national characterization of the indigenous territories.

There was another presentation on the socialization of the bills on water resources, páramos, forests and land management.

A video was shown to illustrate the impact of encroachment on the territories of ethnic groups - in this case the cultivation of African palm on the land of black communities in the Colombian Chocó. In the ensuing discussion, the participants drew parallels with the indigenous peoples, including some of the same impacts.

1.3.2.3 Background / Rationale

The national project on legislation for indigenous peoples in Colombia originated from the Strategic Meeting of Networks-Organizations for Advocacy (Costa Rica, 19-21 August 2003). Its activities focused on a right that is essential for indigenous peoples - the right to land and territory. The advocacy activities were geared to securing the passage through Congress of the Land Management Act (LOOT). This called for the implementation of a variety of strategies in the fields of: a) information/dissemination/communication; b) training/education; and, c) political coordination/mobilization/advocacy (strategic partnerships/lobbying/negotiations). The LOOT bill has undergone some changes and is awaiting a vote in the House of Representatives. The ONIC has been coordinating actions with a number of indigenous senators who have been involved in drafting the final text of the bill and will be taking part in the vote.

1.3.2.4 Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The ONIC coordinated the implementation of the project with the organizations responsible for its creation in August 2003. The efforts to study, disseminate and consult indigenous peoples about the LOOT continued at all levels (local, district, regional and national), by means of workshops, meetings and strategies, as explained in the previous section. The IIHR monitored the implementation of the work plan, provided technical assistance, carried out missions to take part in key points in the process, evaluated the implementation of the plans and updated the content of *Diversidades*, the specialized section of the IIHR website. USAID was informed of the activities implemented. The staff tried to organize a final meeting with the people responsible but this was not possible because of the prior commitments of the officials concerned.

1.3.2.5 Intermediate Steps

- General monitoring of the implementation of the work plan to ensure the activities were completed according to schedule
- Decision regarding which key organizations should be invited to the different activities, issuing of invitations and follow-up to confirm who would be taking part; coordination with the counterpart organizations for these activities
- Planning, methodological and logistical organization, implementation of the workshop/meeting
- Issuing of invitations to or participation in coordination and planning meetings
- Preparation and implementation of presentations to forums that address subjects related to the LOOT and other related issues
- Planning, scheduling and participation in meetings with lawmakers and their advisers
- Preparation of documents for working meetings in Congress and letters to lawmakers
- Production of informational/dissemination and training materials
- Preparation of materials for uploading to the specialized section of the Institute's website, www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/diversidades/, and continual updating of the section's contents
- Drafting of the quarterly report on implementation

1.3.2.6 Results or Outputs

- The project continued to study the LOOT bill and evaluated and adjusted the political advocacy strategies of the indigenous organizations, endeavoring to influence the new version of the bill being prepared by its proponents (senators). In June it will be introduced in the House of Representatives for the three votes required
- The ONIC also took part in a National Workshop of Indigenous Territories,¹ whose main objective was to identify and prioritize the indigenous peoples' needs in territorial matters and recommend that they be incorporated into the 2005 Plan of Action of the National Commission on Indigenous Territories; and prepare and implement the *National workshop to provide follow-up to the territorial agenda of Colombia's indigenous peoples*
- Project staff continued to update and expand the content and materials available from *Diversidades*, the specialized section of the Institute's website. As of 30 June, *Diversidades* contained 4329 items in its different subsections (Acerca de nosotros, Documentos, Normativa, Vocabulario, Otros Sitios, Preguntas frecuentes), as well as an up-to-date directory of 255 indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations. The specialized section received a total of 24,908 hits between 1 April and 30 June - an average of 273 visits per day that lasted an average of 16:59 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).

1.3.2.7 Impact Indicators

"Indigenous organizations better equipped to coordinate joint work and advocacy efforts"

- Under the project, the indigenous peoples have been able to establish proactive strategies for their dealings with the Colombian state and the central government in regard to the territorial matters that affect them
- The project facilitated joint action and consensus building on policies regarding land management between the ONIC and the peoples it represents
- The project continued to strengthen coordinated action with other Colombian networks-organizations and indigenous peoples (ONIC, OPIAC, AICO) and advocacy actions both for the LOOT and other bills presented recently in the country (e.g., on the *páramos*, water resources and forests)
- The project consolidated a national indigenous working group on territorial issues that is also promoting the right to life and culture
- As pointed out in the report for January-March, the organizations are very interested in the information available in *Diversidades*, the specialized section of the IIHR's website. The number and length of visits to the page had increased since the previous quarter, and this trend continued between April and June. There were 9155 more visits and the average length of visits increased by 4.14 seconds

The following table gives a breakdown of the number of visits to the section during 2004 and the first half of 2005, showing the sustained increase in the number of visits throughout the period.

¹ Every year, pursuant to Decree 1397 of 1996, the delegates of the country's indigenous peoples meet to propose to the national government, through the National Commission on Indigenous Territories, how their territorial problems could be solved. Little progress has been made so far due to the lack of public policies on territorial matters and budget appropriations to meet their territorial demands.

Quarter	Number of visits	Average per day	Average length of visits (in minutes)
1 January - 30 March 2004	15,172	166	8:41
1 April - 30 June 2004	13,130	144	8:02
1 July - 30 September 2004	12,728	138	10:02
1 October - 09 December 2004	12,072	131	12:57
1 January - 30 March 2005	15,753	175	13:24
1 April - 30 June 2005	24,908	273	13:35
Totals	93,763	171	11:11

“More partnerships among the various stakeholders and sectors”

- The project continued to lobby, negotiate with and influence indigenous senators and representatives, democratic lawmakers and social movements
- More specialists in land-related and territorial issues took part in specialized events, as did representatives of institutions state. These are people who can help improve the indigenous peoples’ proposals and serve as strategic partners for negotiations with the national government

“NGOs, civil society entities, stakeholders and decision makers more familiar with the bill’s contents”

- The project continued the information/dissemination process, producing specific documents to expand the knowledge of all the people involved in the territorial issues of indigenous peoples
- Thanks to the use of the press and TV, the organizations and the Colombian people in general are more knowledgeable about the subject
- Thanks to the direct contact with indigenous lawmakers and others who support the bill, the stakeholders gained a better understanding of the scope of the LOOT. As a result, they proposed changes in the text to defend the interests of indigenous peoples and improved their advocacy efforts

Means of verification:

- Report on the implementation of the work plan
- Documentation of the workshop that was held
- Lists of participants in the workshop
- Informational/dissemination materials
- Up-to-date database containing more information about indigenous organizations and others involved in the issue
- Information available on line in *Diversidades*, the specialized section of the Institute’s website
- Reports and statistics obtained using the Webtrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the specialized section

1.3.3. National Project: Non-discrimination against Afro-descendant populations (Panama)

1.3.3.1 Description

For the final phase of the project, the Afro-Panamanian Forum requested a meeting of the members of the Afro-Panamanian community and its organizations. Held 14 May in Panama

City, the purpose of the activity was to explain the important progress made since August 2003, when the process of drafting the *Strategic Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan* began. The plan sets strategic objectives for achieving real equality for Afro-descendant men and women in Panamanian society and in their dealings with the State, impacting Panamanian society and persuading the branches of government to make social inclusion part of public policies for the Afro-descendant community. The Plan consisted of three components:

- *Political Platform of Afro-Panamanians*, a 16-point document setting out the objectives and thrust of the public policies they would like to see adopted. This was presented to the presidential candidates in the 2004 elections
- *Draft bill containing measures to promote equal employment opportunities in Panama and outlawing discriminatory practices*
- *Profile and proposal for the National Master Plan for the Sustainable Development of Afro-Panamanians*

The following activities were implemented under the project:

1.3.3.1.1 Workshops-meetings

Meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan. Panama City, 14 May. The objectives of this event were to: a) report on the work related to the *Strategic Afro-Panamanian Advocacy Plan*; b) present officially the conceptual underpinnings of the *National sectoral master plan for the sustainable development of Afro-Panamanians*; c) publicize the underpinnings of, and the model used for, the sectoral plan *The path to sustainable development: the Afro-descendant community's proposal for a national development plan*; d) report on the impact of the *Draft bill to promote equal employment opportunities in Panama. Law 11 of April 2005*; e) IIHR: evaluate the advocacy project and the conference; f) study the incorporation of the ombudsman's office into the Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan, to address human rights issues; and, g) study the proposal prepared by the Panama City Mayor's Office. Thirty-two people took part in the meeting and the officer from the IIHR's Program to Combat Racism provided technical assistance.

1.3.3.1.2 Political advocacy

With regard to advocacy actions, further meetings were held with Panamanian consultants, intellectuals and professionals to discuss the strategies to be implemented, prepare specialized documents and assign the tasks involved in the different lobbying, negotiating and other activities identified, both with members of the Executive Branch and lawmakers and officials from the Judicial Branch and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama. The results of the activities were as follows: a) **Law 11 of 22 April 2005** "*Which prohibits labor discrimination and adopts measures*"; b) **Executive Decree No. 124 of 27 May 2005**, "*Creating a special commission to develop a government policy for the full inclusion of black Panamanians*"; c) **Amendment to Article 9 of the Electoral Code of 10 March 2005**, "*Granting prisoners the right to vote*"; and, d) **Afro-Panamanian proposal for the transformation of justice of 22 April 2005**, presented to the State Justice Commission in Panama, as a result of which the community was invited to take part in the work of the *State Justice Commission*.

1.3.3.1.3 Communication and dissemination

The various information/dissemination/communication activities continued during this quarter, via local TV channels and the printed and digital editions of newspapers (*La Prensa* and *Panamá América*), other websites (*Expresiones para una Sociedad Participativa*) and the publications of the Afro-Panamanian organizations themselves (bulletins, press releases, etc.).

The IIHR continued to develop *Diversidades*, the specialized section of its website. In addition to posting daily news items of interest to the people taking part in the project, it prepares a biweekly bulletin that is emailed to the large number of people included in its database, which is also updated regularly. As the project drew to a close, the national projects were also systematized to provide, among other things, examples of “best practices” in this area. The information includes not only a chronological history of the entire process and some of the main activities carried out, but also the most important documents produced since 2003, which can be accessed via links.

1.3.3.2 Method

For the *Meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan*, the project combined expert presentations with opportunities for comments and question-and-answer sessions, to facilitate dialogue and the sharing of opinions and experiences. This was useful not only to evaluate the entire process but also to orient the future actions of the Afro-Panamanian movement, disseminating and socializing information about the content of the event. One of the topics addressed was the “Importance of Master Development Plans” (requirements and social impact). It was emphasized that Afro-Panamanians can achieve sustainable development by designing, planning and executing national and regional development plans, and their own projects and programs, establishing the partnerships needed for the success of our proposals and their positive impact on the State’s sectoral and national plans.

The IIHR’s representative then made some general observations on behalf of the Institute about the Strategic Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan. She noted the major progress that had been made but also the need to strengthen the organizations and the political platform. Programs were needed for the most vulnerable members of the Afro-descendant community (children, women and the elderly), who face great difficulties integrating into society. She also acknowledged the difficulty of financing projects, as Panama is not eligible to receive donations from some international organizations due to its high per capita income. She stressed the need for programs and projects to train children and young people who are the victims of drugs, alcohol, violence and sexual abuse, because they are excluded from society and marginalized in socioeconomic terms. “Public policies and budgets must be promoted to guarantee specific education programs for this sector of the Afro-descendant community.”

The General Secretary of the ombudsman’s office talked about his institution and its inclusion in the Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan to deal with human rights issues. The institution existed to defend the interests of Afro-Panamanian people, as did the National Commission Against Discrimination. The community could use them to continue contributing input on this subject. He urged the Afro-Panamanian delegates to play an active role in the Commission’s meetings and deliberations. Many participants asked about concrete ways in which the ombudsman’s office could protect this group’s fundamental rights, including economic, social and cultural rights and the right to sustainable development.

Speaking on behalf of the Mayor, the head of Panama City’s Office for Equal Opportunities and Citizen Action talked about the municipality’s policy with regard to the Sustainable Development Plan for Afro-Panamanians. It was studying the document to determine how it could be incorporated into municipal policy.

Finally, the Executive Secretary of the National Coordinating Office of Organizations of Black Panamanian Women gave a presentation on advocacy efforts with regard to the draft bill containing measures to promote equal employment opportunities in Panama and outlawing discriminatory practices. She explained that Law 11 did not cover all the aspects that the Afro-Panamanian women’s organizations had pushed for, such as the elimination of photos in job

applications. Nonetheless, it was an important advance in terms of legislation to combat discrimination.

The following strategies were implemented to disseminate the activity: a) the event was publicized electronically and by making direct contact with the stakeholders; b) faxes and letters were sent to the press and the TV and radio stations that covered the event; and, c) the President's Office, ministries, the Mayor's Office in Panama City and the ombudsman's office were invited to take part.

1.3.3.3 Background / Rationale

The national project on non-discrimination for the Afro-descendant community in Panama arose out of the Strategic Meeting of Networks-Organizations for Advocacy (Costa Rica, 19-21 August 2003). Three main strategies were involved. The project a) raised the profile of the interests and proposals of Afro-descendant men and women in Panamanian society; b) strengthened the organizations and political platform of the Afro-descendant community; and, c) created mechanisms or legislation for equal opportunities in the labor market and for decision-making positions.

1.3.3.4 Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

USAID/Panama was kept informed of the activities implemented throughout the project. The contact person was Melba D'Anello, Democracy and Governance Officer of USAID/Panama. Project staff visited her periodically, as she was keen to collaborate at all times and did an effective job. The work plan was executed by the ten organizations involved in the project from the outset. The work was coordinated by the Panamanian Committee Against Racism. It identified actors and other NGOs; handled relations with the representatives of government institutions and other sectors, including civil society; convened and handled the technical and logistical arrangements for the final meeting; prepared informational and dissemination documents; and, presented narrative and financial reports. The IIHR monitored implementation of the work plan, provided technical assistance, conducted missions to participate in key points in the process, evaluated the implementation of the plans and updated the contents of the specialized section (*Diversidades*).

1.3.3.5 Intermediate Steps

- General monitoring of the implementation of the work plan to ensure the activities were completed on schedule
- Decision regarding who should be invited to the different activities, issuing of invitations and follow-up to confirm their participation; and coordination with the counterpart organizations for these activities
- Planning, methodological and logistical organization, implementation of the workshop/meeting
- Issuing of invitations to or participation in coordination and planning meetings
- Preparation and implementation of presentations to forums that address subjects related to the anti-discriminatory legislation, the political platform of Afro-Panamanians and the *National sectoral master plan for sustainable development*
- Production of informational/dissemination and training materials
- Preparation of materials for uploading to the specialized section of the Institute's website, www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/diversidades/, and continual updating of the section's contents
- Drafting of the quarterly report on implementation

1.3.3.6 Results or Outputs

- The *Meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan* was held
- **Executive Decree No. 124 of 27 May 2005** was issued, “*Creating a special commission to develop a government policy for the full inclusion of black Panamanians*”
- As had been requested in the *Political Platform of Afro-Panamanians*, **Article 9 of the Electoral Code** was amended, “*Granting prisoners the right to vote*”
- A document was prepared entitled *Afro-Panamanian proposal for the transformation of justice administration*. After it was presented to the State Justice Commission in Panama, the community was invited to participate in the work of the Access to Justice Sub-commission
- The efforts to promote the *Draft bill containing measures to promote equal employment opportunities in Panama and outlawing discriminatory practices* resulted in the enactment of **Law 11 of 22 April 2005**, “*Which prohibits labor discrimination and adopts measures*”
- Progress was made with the third document, *Profile and proposal for the National master plan for the sustainable development of Afro-Panamanians*
- Project staff continued to update and expand the content and materials available from *Diversidades*, the specialized section of the Institute’s website. As of 30 June, *Diversidades* contained 4329 items in its different subsections (Acerca de nosotros, Documentos, Normativa, Vocabulario, Otros Sitios, Preguntas frecuentes), as well as an up-to-date directory of 255 indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations. The specialized section received a total of 24,908 hits between 1 April and 30 June - an average of 273 visits per day that lasted an average of 16:59 minutes each (statistics compiled using WebTrends software).

1.3.3.7 Impact Indicators

“Afro-Panamanian organizations better equipped to coordinate joint work and advocacy efforts”

- Under the aegis of the project, a number of proposals were prepared with the participation of the consultants, intellectuals and professionals belonging to the Afro-Panamanian Forum, for the presentation of various proposed bills, public policies, etc. These were well received by the central government and other branches of government (e.g., the *Afro-Panamanian proposal for the transformation of justice administration*)
- The different sectors - and especially the public sector - were made aware of the exclusion and marginalization of the Afro-Panamanian community, and of the need to establish platforms for its participation and inclusion. Among other things, this led to the establishment of the *Special commission to develop a government policy for the full inclusion of black Panamanians*
- The project continued to establish and coordinate strategic partnerships both within the Afro-descendant movement and with other organizations (women, indigenous peoples), sectors and actors in Panamanian society (political, state and parliamentary)
- As noted in the previous report (January-March), the organizations have shown a keen interest in the information available in *Diversidades*, the specialized section of the IIHR’s website. The number and length of visits to the page had increased since the previous quarter, and this trend continued between April and June. There were 9155 more visits and the average length of visits increased by 4.14 seconds

The following table gives a breakdown of the number of visits to the section during 2004 and the first half of 2005, showing the sustained increase in the number of visits throughout the period.

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Total	93,763	171	11:11

“More partnerships among the various stakeholders and sectors”

- The project continued to study and discuss with various organizations and social movements the document on the *National master plan for the sustainable development of Afro-Panamanians*
- More new parliamentary partners were identified and the project undertook further advocacy actions to promote the various proposals developed by the Afro-Panamanian movement

“NGOs, civil society entities, actors and decision makers more familiar with the discrimination that exists in Panama’s labor market against the Afro-descendant population and the opportunities that would be created by enacting a law prohibiting such discrimination, and public policies to implement it”

- The project continued the information/dissemination and negotiation process with lawmakers and other political actors concerning the *Draft Bill to promote equal employment opportunities for Afro-Panamanians*. **This led to the enactment of Law 11 of 22 April 2005 “Which prohibits labor discrimination and adopts measures”**

Means of verification:

- Report on the implementation of the work plan
- Versions of documents containing proposals or concerning their negotiation
- Lists of participants in the 14 May meeting
- Informational/dissemination materials
- Texts of law and presidential decrees
- Up-to-date database containing more information about Afro-descendant organizations and others involved in the issue
- Information available on line in *Diversidades*, the specialized section of the Institute’s website
- Reports and statistics obtained using the Webtrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the specialized section

1.3. LESSONS LEARNED

The following is an overview of the lessons learned following the conclusion of the work plan in **Peru**:

- The project facilitated the close coordination on many issues of civil society organizations involved in women rights, promoted by the “Women for Equal

Opportunities” Collective. Previously, a number of organizations undertook efforts in this field without sustained coordination. Working under the aegis of the Collective enabled them to combine their agendas and interests, consider issues together, coordinate their work and strengthen the resources of each organization, and make the law one of the core issues on the agenda of the women’s social movement

- The work with counterparts such as the networks-organizations that make up the Collective, with broad experience in the field of women’s rights, made it possible to share expertise, resources and efforts, enhancing the actions planned under the project
- The difficulties posed by developments in Congress, e.g., changes of parliamentary leaders and in the membership of committees; the order in which the matters on the agenda are addressed; the frequent lack of a quorum in the parliamentary committees; and, the passage of comprehensive legislation like the equal opportunities act, which requires a lot of time and preparation
- The particular political or electoral situations in the countries and changes of government officials at times hinder the advocacy work with various actors called for in processes such as the one facilitated in Peru
- The country’s political-social context affects the issues on the public agenda and Congress’s agenda, making it difficult to sustain the progress made. The situation is compounded by developments in Congress itself, with parties realigning and some lawmakers resigning from their parties
- The negative effect of the conservative positions of hierarchies or religious groups on governmental or political decisions, which impedes progress with regard to women’s rights
- In practice, issues related to equality and gender equity still do not form part of the priority agenda of the Executive Branch and Congress. This is a further obstacle to the effort to promote the bill
- Insufficient political will to implement public policy, legislative and other kinds of measures that would contribute to the full implementation of the CEDAW Convention and to the development of positive legislation with regard to women’s rights, such as the equal opportunities bill
- Greater efforts are needed to permeate public opinion and make equality and gender equity part of the coverage of the media

In the case of Colombia, the lessons learned were as follows:

- The internal armed conflict largely determines the issues on the public agenda and the agenda of Congress. Priority is given to the passage of legislation that has more to do with the changing sociopolitical context. This makes it hard to promote a bill like the LOOT, which has experienced serious delays since it was introduced in both houses
- There is not enough political will to implement public policy, legislative and other kinds of measures that would help ensure the territorial rights of Colombia’s indigenous peoples, particularly the law that would regulate the operation of the Indigenous Territorial Entities (ETIs), as is the case of the LOOT
- As mentioned in previous reports, it is important to manage projects flexibly, due to the differing situations in the countries concerned and changes in the political situation that affect the execution of advocacy processes such as the one being promoted

In the case of Panama, the lessons learned were as follows:

- In this case, the fact that elections were due to be held contributed to the success of the initiatives of the Afro-Panamanian movement, one of whose strategies (preparation of a 16-point political platform that was presented to the presidential candidates) was key for the success achieved under the project

- At the internal level, the Afro-Panamanian community's capacity to organize, coordinate and mobilize, the sustained work of its intellectuals, professionals and consultants, and the timing of the project proved decisive for the legislative achievements and the inclusion of the community's proposals in very important areas, such as the reform of justice administration
- Furthermore, the strategic partnerships with other sectors (e.g., indigenous lawmakers) were very important for promoting **Law 11 of 22 April 2005**, "*Which prohibits labor discrimination and adopts measures*"
- Although not all the Panamanian media address the issues of racism and discrimination against the Afro-Panamanian community, the project activities were covered constantly in the printed and electronic editions of major national newspapers and websites published various articles on the process.
- Despite the progress achieved, a major, sustained effort is still needed to ensure that public policies are prepared and budgets allocated for the development of the Afro-descendant community. These would be monitored by the Afro-Panamanian organizations themselves, to ensure accountability and transparency in the management of the resources assigned.

B. CONFLICT PREVENTION

1. PROJECT: "CITIZEN SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA: DEVELOPING A NATIONAL AND LOCAL APPROACH"

1.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The objective of this project is to assist public institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) with the design and implementation of citizen security policies; and to strengthen community participation in security. The aim is to help reduce insecurity and guarantee citizen security as a human right.

As specified in the approved Work Plan, in April and May the project implemented actions in two countries of the region (the Dominican Republic and Argentina), adopting differentiated intervention strategies.

In the case of Argentina, the work focused on strengthening community and citizen involvement in security by means of *One-day Training Seminars with the Neighborhood Security Forums* in Buenos Aires Province (19-22 April). The project also addressed the issue of the social prevention of crime and violence at a large-scale seminar entitled *Latin American Experiences of Work with Young People-Prevention of Juvenile Violence* (20 May). The staff had been working on the thematic content and methodologies and coordinating the preparations for these activities since the first quarter of 2005.

In the Dominican Republic, under the sub-project "Developing a Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic," the team carried out the second specialized technical assistance mission planned for this year (15-20 May). As explained in the last quarterly report (January-March), the IIHR is supporting the modernization and institution-building efforts of the Dominican police force through the implementation of the "Institution Building Strategy for the National Police of the Dominican Republic," approved by the authorities in December 2004 as part of the Public Citizen Security Policy.

This mission to the Dominican Republic was especially important following the issuing of Presidential Decree 264-05, on 27 February, which unveiled the **Democratic Security Plan** to tackle the crime and growing insecurity in the country, making it a national priority. This attests to the government's commitment to the implementation of a comprehensive citizen security policy, in a combined effort involving the Minister of the Interior, Franklin Almeyda, and his team; Attorney General Francisco Domínguez Brito and his staff; and the Chief of Police, General Pérez Sánchez. President Leonel Fernández has declared his full support for the policy.

1.2 ANNUAL GOALS

Annual Goal 1:

Support the process of security sector reform by implementing a citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic

Annual Goal 2:

Strengthen community participation in the democratic construction of security in Argentina

1.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

1.3.1 Technical missions to the Dominican Republic

All the parties involved pledged to continue the reform of the police during the first five months of the year, as part of the Public Citizen Security Policy. This reform process is based on the "Strategy for the Institutional Modernization of the National Police of the Dominican Republic," drawn up by the IIHR and approved by the Minister for Home Affairs and the Director of Police in December 2004. Two specialized technical assistance missions were undertaken during this quarter. The IIHR team of specialists also prepared papers and documents and conducted analyses as part of the permanent advisory support.

As part of the IIHR's technical assistance, the second mission to the country so far this year was carried out 16-20 May. The members of the mission were the Director of the Department of Public Institutions, Juan Navarrete, Security and Human Rights Program Officer Isabel Albaladejo and the team of consultants - Carlos Basombrío (Peruvian), Robinson Pérez (Chilean) and Germán Montenegro and Carlos Aguilar (both Argentineans).

This mission was particularly important following the issuing of Presidential Decree 264-05 on 27 February, which unveiled the Democratic Security Plan to tackle the crime and growing insecurity in the country, making it a national priority. The IIHR's team had recommended that such a decree be issued to give the restructuring process a legal underpinning, and President Leonel Fernández approved the measure. In addition to setting out the background, rationale and objectives of the reform, the decree has three main sections, each of which contains a large number of activities and goals:

- a) Strengthen the police force
- b) Incorporate the dimension of community policing
- c) Define the relationship between the police and the armed forces

The mission was therefore used to assist the National Police in designing the program for implementing the Democratic Security Plan referred to in the decree.

Since the focus of the IIHR's support is on the reform of the police, following the approval of the Police Modernization Plan in December 2004, our efforts have concentrated on providing the permanent advisory assistance needed to implement the wide range of actions called for. The staff has been giving priority to the strengthening of the "Preventive Police," designing a community policing strategy and a system for gathering and analyzing crime-related information, in order to set up a criminal intelligence system.

On the recommendation of the IIHR team, an internal directive was issued that calls for the organizational-functional restructuring of the police force, creating the "Preventive Police" and the "Detective Police." In particular, and given the new structure required and already approved by the Chief of the National Police, in the months ahead priority will be given to the areas of Prevention, Internal Affairs and Training. This is at the request of the authorities themselves.

All of the above underscores the government's commitment to the implementation of a comprehensive citizen security policy, in a combined effort involving the Minister for Home Affairs and the Police, Franklin Almeyda; Attorney General Francisco Domínguez Brito and

Chief of the National Police, Gen. Pérez Sánchez, with whom several meetings took place. President Leonel Fernández has declared his full support for the policy.

1.3.1.2. Method

During the week that the mission was in Santo Domingo (15-20 May), the work focused on strengthening the preventive security area of the National Police. Therefore, most of the meetings and work involved the police's preventive security team.

Before the mission, the group of consultants had prepared two key documents. The first contains a **Community Policing Strategy** and was presented to the institution at a workshop organized especially for that purpose. The basic components of the strategy were discussed and approved; it is attached as **Annex 1**.

The second document contains a **Proposal for implementing a system for gathering, processing and analyzing crime-related information**. This was also presented at an internal workshop with the police's specialists in the georeferencing of crime. Once it had been approved, two of the consultants (Germán Montenegro and Carlos Aguilar) spent the rest of the week advising the police on how to implement the system. The proposal is also attached to this report, as **Annex 2**.

Further meetings took place with the Minister for Home Affairs, the Attorney General, a number of senior police officers and the Chief of the National Police, Gen. Manuel de Jesús Pérez Sánchez. The mission was thus able to advise the people responsible for implementing the actions called for.

Finally, the team supported the design of the program for implementing the Democratic Security Plan referred to in the Decree.

1.3.1.3. Background / Rationale

As has been reiterated in previous reports, the Strategy for Modernizing the National Police of the Dominican Republic that has been designed charts the way forward for the assistance that is being provided. It is a cornerstone of the country's new citizen security policy and, more specifically, of the institutional strategy that should be implemented prior or parallel to a comprehensive crime control strategy. Thus, it forms part of the reform and modernization of the citizen security system and is designed specifically to enable the police to carry out efficient crime prevention and prosecution strategies and criminal investigations, doing away with the anachronisms and weaknesses that exist.

A comprehensive, democratic citizen security policy requires a police system that performs its basic tasks of crime prevention and criminal investigation efficiently, strictly observing the principle of due process and the duty to protect human rights, as the best way to guarantee the right to citizen security and the human rights that it entails.

1.3.1.4. Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

Juan Navarrete, Director of the IIHR's Department of Public Institutions, and Security and Human Rights program officer Isabel Albaladejo are responsible for implementing and coordinating the strategy developed.

The members of the technical mission carried out in May were Juan Navarrete, Isabel Albaladejo and consultants Carlos Basombrío (Peruvian), Germán Montenegro (Argentinean), Carlos Aguilar (Argentinean) and Robinson Pérez (Chilean).

A letter was sent to the USAID office in Santo Domingo informing it of the purpose of the mission.

1.3.1.5. Intermediate Steps

The project team:

- Coordinated with the counterparts, i.e., the Ministry for Home Affairs and the Police and the Chief of Police of the Dominican Republic
- Maintained permanent contact with the counterparts, to monitor any developments in the country that could have a bearing on citizen security and offer pertinent advice
- Hired the consultants taking part in the process and consultation process, and coordinate the work with them
- Identified and contacted the officials that the technical mission met with during their mission last October
- Coordinated the meetings held by the team that took part in the missions
- Coordinated the workshops held during the mission
- Drafted various documents that were delivered to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Chief of Police, namely: Community Policing Strategy; and the Proposal for implementing a system for gathering and analyzing crime-related information

1.3.1.6. Results or Outputs

- A political and technical mission was carried out to continue implementing the actions needed, as part of the reform process
- Senior police officers took part in the workshops held in May 2005
- Several working meetings took place with senior Dominican police officers, to ascertain the current situation and the progress made since the previous mission, and offer advice on the implementation of the areas on which the efforts focused during this mission
- The President approved Presidential Decree 264-05, which establishes the legal framework and allots the budget for implementing the actions called for in the Strategy, setting specific deadlines
- An internal directive was issued establishing the organizational-functional restructuring of the Police, creating the “Preventive Police” and the “Detective Police”
- Interinstitutional coordination to achieve the objectives (Ministry for Home Affairs, National Police, Attorney General’s Office)
- A Community Policing Strategy and a Strategy for Gathering and Analyzing Crime-related Information were drafted
- The parties involved continued to monitor, oversee and supervise the implementation of the priority actions called for in the modernization plan

1.3.1.7. Impact indicators

“Increased institutional capabilities for designing and implementing measures to guarantee security, as part of a public security policy”

1. The way was paved for instituting change within the Dominican police force, based on the guidelines produced by the IIHR, which were discussed with and validated by the police themselves. The government has also adopted the document as a position paper for its security policy.

2. Many senior Dominican National Police officers, including its Chief and the Director of the "Preventive Police," are totally committed to bringing about change.

3. Initiatives are already under way to bring about change, with modern ideas endorsed by the public and the highest levels of the government. They include the organizational-functional restructuring of the Police through the creation of the "Preventive Police" and the "Detective Police," with separate bodies of doctrine and action strategies that reflect the shift toward professionalization.

4. There is an interinstitutional body for coordinating security issues headed by the Minister for Home Affairs and the Police.

5. There is a Presidential Decree declaring the Democratic Security Plan a national priority. Combined with the internal provisions of the police force, this creates a legal framework for the reform measures already implemented and those that lie ahead.

6. The importance of the IIHR's technical and facilitating role in the Dominican Republic is widely acknowledged and strong support for it to continue.

Means of verification:

The following materials and documents are to be found in the annexes:

- "Community Policing Strategy" (Annex 1)
- "Proposal for implementing a system for gathering, processing and analyzing crime-related information" (Annex 2)

1.3.2 Training seminars for the Neighborhood Security Forums in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

The training seminars were a capacity-building exercise designed to increase the participation of the grassroots organizations that belong to the Neighborhood Security Forums in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The training seminars were programmed in two phases: the first two took place during the week of 19-22 April and another on 20 May.

The seminars were entitled "**Latin American Experiences of Controlling Police Conduct and Community Prevention of Violence.**" Designed to "train trainers," they were targeted at one representative of each forum, with 250 people taking part in each 1½-day activity.

The objectives of the seminars were to:

- Develop mechanisms for citizen control of police conduct, based on evaluation instruments that make it possible to consolidate a strategy whereby citizens' organizations can scrutinize the activities of the Buenos Aires police
- Enhance the forums' capacity to implement community crime prevention projects
- Develop capabilities and positioning for the definition of public security policies with input from the local level

The response to the first activity was very positive. Indeed, the citizenry was so keen to explore the issue of the social prevention of crime in greater depth that another, large-scale, one-day seminar was organized, also targeted at representatives of security forums in the

province. The participants also included CSOs involved in the issue and youth organizations that are promoting local, community and neighborhood actions and the prevention of juvenile violence by working with groups that are at risk and/or have problems with the law.

Held 20 May, the seminar was entitled “Latin American Experiences of Work with Young People.” It attracted 1400 people.

1.3.2.1 Method

During the seminars held between 19 and 22 April, the participants were familiarized with some important experiences in the hemisphere related to strategies and mechanisms for keeping police conduct in check and community crime prevention. The presentations were made by experts Carlos Basombrío (Peru), Gonzalo García P. (Chile), and Haydée Caruso (Brazil). The event was inaugurated by the Undersecretary for Community Participation of the Security Ministry, Martha María Arriola, and IIHR official Isabel Albaladejo, of the Security and Human Rights Program. The activity was also used to analyze the “CERCA” Program in greater depth. This is designed to help security forums perform better the duties assigned to them by law, one of which involves monitoring the activities of the police and evaluating their performance.

The seminars lasted 1½ days each. In addition to the presentations by experts, the participants worked in groups and in workshops. Each activity involved around 120 people (making a total of 240). They came from the capital and all parts of Buenos Aires province.

Like the first seminars, the activity on 20 May took place in Ciudad de La Plata. It was a large-scale seminar on the prevention of juvenile violence, held to enhance the capabilities of the security forums and other citizens’ organizations, as well as CSOs involved in prevention work with high-risk groups. It attracted 1400 people.

The meeting included the presentation of the Multiple Response Program (PRM) that the province’s Security Ministry is implementing with the CSOs, which are in charge of activities on the ground. This program involves projects that are to be implemented in the province of Buenos Aires for young people at risk or who have problems with the law. It includes:

- a) Actions aimed at social integration through the arts, sports, education and training in trades
- b) Institution-building actions for grassroots organizations, security forums and NGOs that work with teenagers and young adults
- c) Setting up of Local Rights Promotion Units (ULPD) to afford young people access to the full exercise of their citizens’ and human rights

Furthermore, some “Latin American Experiences of Work with Young People” were presented, with emphasis on the prevention of violence and crime working with young people at risk. The experts who gave these presentations were Ernesto Rodríguez (Uruguay), Oscar Pérez Dávalos (Chile) and Enrique Yépez (Peru).

The activity was inaugurated by the Minister of Security, León Carlos Arslanian, the Undersecretary for Community Participation, Martha María Arriola, and the IIHR’s representative, from the Security and Human Rights Program, Isabel Albaladejo. The event also included workshops and concluded with presentations by the young people present, who gave their opinions and offered suggestions regarding the implementation of actions. They made very useful contributions that the authorities listened to attentively, pledging to provide follow-up.

The staff of the Undersecretariat for Community Participation, a department of the Ministry of Security, was extremely helpful and identified and invited the citizens' organizations. Their support was key to the success of the two events.

1.3.2.2. Background / Rationale

For decades, young people in Latin America and the Caribbean have suffered severe economic, social, political and cultural exclusion. They live on the periphery of our societies, many in the slums of our cities and towns. Plenty of studies have been carried out on this subject and the most recent, by ECLAC and the OIJ, confirmed in detail what we all already knew. Unfortunately, well-timed, relevant responses are much less common. Unlike other segments of the population (children and women, for example), which have made progress in recent decades, the situation of young people is either the same or worse (and in some cases, markedly so).

The new social scenario in Argentina and the increase in crime, mainly in Buenos Aires, call for more grassroots involvement to ensure a process of authentic, plural citizen participation. The Neighborhood Security Forums were created by law for this purpose. This type of citizen participation should also create opportunities for social integration with young people, e.g., possibilities of employment, education, protection, so they can exercise their citizens' rights to the full.

Training is a permanent tool for strengthening the Forums. As they are close to, and have first-hand knowledge of, the situation in each area, they have been given non-delegable functions and are in a position to promote specific actions in their immediate area, such as the control and evaluation of police activities, the recovery of public spaces and the prevention of violence at the grassroots level. The rapid rise in juvenile violence in particular has destabilized the security situation in the country.

Thus, the training seminars were designed to enhance the capacity to participate of the grassroots organizations that make up the Neighborhood Security Forums and other CSOs and local groups in Argentina.

1.3.2.3 Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The Director of the IIHR's Department of Public Institutions, Juan Navarrete, was responsible for these activities. Isabel Albaladejo, of the Security and Human Rights Program, coordinated the work.

The experts invited to speak were Gonzalo García P. (Chile), Carlos Basombrío (Peru), Haydée Caruso (Brazil), Ernesto Rodríguez (Uruguay), Oscar Pérez Dávalos (Chile) and Enrique Yépez (Peru).

1.3.2.4 Intermediate Steps

Project staff:

- Designed the thematic program and the methodology used in the training seminars
- Identified and hired the speakers (consultants)
- Identified the province's Neighborhood Security Forums and grassroots organizations that are deemed a priority, given the problems they face
- Sent out invitations to all the participants
- Designed and arranged for the printing of the programs for the participants, and the name tags and folders

- Prepared anthologies containing teaching materials on the issues addressed during the training activities and arranged for them to be printed and copied
- Coordinated the invitations and logistical and organizational matters with personnel from the Undersecretariat for Community Participation

1.3.2.5 Results or Outputs

- Two seminars were held. The first involved 240 representatives of security forums; the second, 1400 people from security forums and neighborhood groups and CSOs
- The organizations faced with critical insecurity problems were identified
- The activities enhanced the capacity of civil society and the citizenry to design and implement actions to prevent violence and juvenile crime, monitor the conduct of the police and participate in the design of public security strategies from the local level
- The authorities are focusing their attention on security, to pool efforts, provide tools and strengthen the organizations to prevent crime from the local level up, adopting an integrated approach and with emphasis on social prevention
- Anthologies were produced containing teaching materials on the issues addressed at the training seminars

1.3.2.6 Impact indicators

“Mechanisms for community participation strengthened as a new democratic model for constructing security”

The participation of large numbers of organizations in the seminars demonstrates the level of interest in, and demand for, opportunities to acquire the expertise they need to take part in public security and help reduce insecurity, mainly through social work with groups that are at risk. Many of the participants traveled 1000 kilometers to take part, at their own expense.

The evaluations filled out by all the participants and the comments expressed show that seminars more than satisfied their expectations in terms of the expertise they acquired. They also revealed a keen interest in continuing with this strategy through a variety of actions related to the social prevention of crime (see material in the annexes).

Means of verification:

Annex 3 contains some pictures and information about the activities described.

1.4 LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons Learned - Dominican Republic

The IIHR has been involved in different stages of the design and management of a public democratic security policy in the Dominican Republic since 2003. Part of the work includes the process of restructuring the National Police.

The importance of the participatory assessment. The Institute’s work began with the participatory assessment, involving the National Police and civil society stakeholders. A key activity was the first workshop, held in October 2003, to kick off the assessment of the National Police and public security in the Dominican Republic. This workshop, together with a number of one-on-one meetings and the presentation of its conclusions to civil society and NGOs, validated the findings and opened the doors for the IIHR to continue its assistance.

Initially - in late 2003 -, the assessment was not accepted by the police hierarchy and they did not disseminate it properly within the institution. However, the assessment contained recommendations and offered solutions. Since then, the police themselves have stated that it was the best assessment of the institution ever carried out.

The validation and official endorsement of the proposals. The National Police validated the assessment and its proposals following the appointment of the present Minister for Home Affairs and the new Chief of Police. During this new stage, the IIHR's assessment and proposals were officially taken on board as the basis for a new police reform strategy.

At the end of 2004, another phase got under way: after helping to prepare documents on security policy, the IIHR worked on a proposed strategy for the reform of the police. The meetings in Juan Dolio with the new Police Chief and officers from different units led to the completion of the Modernization Strategy, and the harmonization of the new doctrine, policy and strategy.

The IIHR thus contributed to the President's decision, in the first quarter of 2005, to implement a Democratic Security Plan. He then issued a decree creating a commission to provide follow-up to the plan and formulate a program for implementing it.

The implementation of the police reform process. This is the third stage of the process and the IIHR focused on this work during its last mission, assisting the National Police in designing the program for implementing the democratic security plan. The IIHR's proposals led to the creation of a new police structure, which includes the so-called "Preventive Police" and the "Investigative Police."

The following challenges lie ahead:

Thanks to the role that the IIHR has played throughout this process, we are now entering a new stage. Having been responsible for validating the police reform and meeting the requirements of senior police officers, the Institute is now called upon to provide support and technical assistance for the implementation of the reform.

The Institute must now demonstrate that it is possible to build a police force that is capable of combating crime and criminality efficiently, based on a democratic, citizen-based approach that respects due process and human rights.

Therefore, in 2005 and 2006 the IIHR's advisory assistance will focus on the practical, such as technical and operational considerations, as well as support in guiding the strategic management of the reform process.

The timeframe for implementing the plan is limited by the political and technical circumstances. Theoretically, the political time available is two years (2005 and 2006). However, the Government faces a stiff first test this year, as the President's performance comes under scrutiny.

Therefore, the implementation strategy should be viewed as a process comprising several stages. The first will produce results in 2005, followed by a second stage in 2006. Changes of a more structural nature will be brought about over the medium term (such as a change in the police mindset).

Pending issues. Several issues remain pending that were not resolved during the previous quarter. They require supervision and work to correct them:

- **Police violence and abuse.** This violates citizens' rights and senior police officers must try to eradicate it, making the issue of respect for due process and human rights a key element of police doctrine. It continues to be a problem as far as some sectors of the force are concerned, rearing its ugly head in confrontations with social movements and during street protests.
- **The demilitarization of the police.** The assessment addressed this issue, which is now being tackled in a gradual, progressive manner. However, the matter has not been resolved completely due to the role that the armed forces play in the Dominican political system. Specifically, a real indicator would be for the police to deal with the typical types of protests that occur by means of dissuasion and control, not by calling out the military.

In general, terms, the work that USAID is supporting is a unique effort to contribute to the comprehensive transformation of a police structure and public security policies from the perspective of respect for due process and human rights.

An objective evaluation of the status of this process is that the authorities have confidence in the IIHR and are keen to receive further technical assistance. They have demonstrated their commitment to the process by instituting sweeping changes in the field of security. Having begun with the assessment in 2003, this year we have initiated the implementation stage.

The structural changes introduced and the legislative reforms approved (including the Presidential Decree issued in February of this year) demonstrate the authorities' intentions.

The strong institutional and political commitment to change also suggests that the actions that are about to be implemented will be sustainable. The aim is to complete a process that has already had a major impact. Great momentum has been built up and further international cooperation is required to consolidate the effort fully.

Lessons Learned - Argentina

Without a doubt, one of the most obvious direct consequences of the social exclusion that young people suffer in Latin America, at all levels, is their growing involvement in different forms of violence (both as victims and victimizers) and in the commission of various types of criminal acts. Citizens of all political, social and cultural persuasions are becoming increasingly alarmed, even though, logically enough, these problems affect them in quite different ways. In some cases, the data available is very fragmentary and hardly scientific. Nevertheless, in the most worrying cases it reflects a highly complex situation that urgently needs to be tackled, with determination and firmness but also with absolute respect for human rights and the implementation of solutions that facilitate and promote prosperity and democracy for all members of society.

Prison policies are creating crises in nearly every case (as the recent riots and other problems attest) and legal reforms have done little to improve the situation, merely imposing tougher sentences without questioning this purely punishment-oriented approach. The clearest examples are the "get tough" policies and "zero tolerance" programs that have failed to have a positive impact and have actually made many problems worse. The response of those affected by the violence has varied. People who are "integrated into society" have retreated into their "private bunkers" (placing bars on their windows, installing alarms, living in "militarized" condominiums, etc.). People who are excluded from society have taken justice into their own hands (summary trials and the lynching of "criminals," self-defense groups, etc.). Both solutions are equally perverse.

Such responses fail to achieve significant results, because they only tackle the most visible manifestations of the problem. As various studies have shown, what we need to do is recognize that the problem is structural, highly complex and rooted in the very cultures of our countries. The simplistic approaches employed to date are of little use, limited as they are to punishment, the implementation of “moralizing” campaigns or the automatic association of poverty with crime. The eradication of poverty is viewed as the panacea, even though there are poor cities that have little violence and not-so-poor cities that are very violent, which categorically refutes such simplistic notions.

In recent years, innovative efforts have been undertaken to address these complex situations that are beginning to produce good results and should be replicated and expanded in very diverse areas, if the aim is to reduce violence and crime rates, while at the same time improving social integration and inclusive human development in our societies.

In Argentina, there are many grassroots organizations that provide support for young people at risk on a daily basis; but many of them cannot find the tools and approaches needed to deal with the problems of their clients.

Hence, the need to provide the citizenry with tools that will enable them to address the problem of violence comprehensively, broadening the approach to the subject to recognize that violence has many causes.

Finally, **Annex 3** contains some pictures of the activities described.

2. PROJECT: STRENGTHENING THE OMBUDSMAN IN LATIN AMERICA

2.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The goal of the project is to make ombudsman’s offices more accessible and independent, and better equipped to solve and channel citizens’ problems and implement actions that have a positive impact on social development. Three seminars were held in **April and May**. The first, aimed at consolidating the Ombudsman’s Office of Bolivia, took place 3-9 April, in La Paz. The second, designed to strengthen the Ombudsman’s Office of Peru, was held 10-13 May, in Lima. It enhanced the institution’s technical and political capabilities for human rights promotion, education and protection, with emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). The objective of the third seminar was to help the Ombudsman’s Office of Paraguay design and implement a training plan focusing on the defense of human rights, the channeling of complaints from the public and the protection of community interests. This seminar took place 10-13 May, at the same time as the one in Peru. Before the Paraguay seminar, a participatory assessment was carried out that provided a systemic overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the daily activities of the staff of the Ombudsman’s Office.

2.2. ANNUAL GOALS

- To support the consolidation of recently created ombudsman’s offices and any others that may need it

2.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

2.3.1. Consolidation of the Ombudsman’s Office of Bolivia

2.3.1.1. Description

In April, the project implemented a specialized training activity that focused on knowledge and practices for protecting the rights of women and indigenous peoples, and the role of

ombudsman's offices in mediation. It was targeted at staff from both the capital and the provinces. A total of 37 officials took part (22 women and 15 men). On average, 10 special guests attended the different papers presented each day.

The activities of the Seminar-Workshop included a public lecture on the protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples under the Inter-American System, given the importance of this issue in Bolivia. The seminar participants, other ombudsman officials and special guests all took part (a total of 110 people).

2.3.1.2. Method

The Seminar-Workshop focused on the issues proposed by the Ombudsman's Office - the human rights of women and indigenous peoples and the institution's role as a mediator and facilitator in Bolivia.

The seminar included presentations by experts on the different subjects, followed by question-and-answer sessions. Strategies were designed for work in groups, so the participants could develop proposals on innovative ways of improving their work at the Ombudsman's Office.

As part of the horizontal cooperation among the Latin America ombudsman promoted by the IIHR, the speakers at the seminar included officials from the ombudsman's offices of Bolivia and Colombia.

Finally, the IIHR presented and distributed its materials among the participants, who said they would be very useful. There was also an induction session for the participants on the Inter-American Virtual Classroom and the specialized sections of the IIHR's Web page.

2.3.1.3. Background and Rationale

The Ombudsman's Office of Bolivia was created in 1997, to defend and promote human rights and provide a way for civil society to supervise and scrutinize the work of the State. Current Ombudsman Waldo Albarracín has held the post since 2003. By law, the ombudsman's office is specifically mandated to ensure that Bolivia's multiethnic and multicultural makeup is respected, and to promote and safeguard women's rights. This was the reason why the IIHR implemented the Seminar-Workshop "Enhancing knowledge and practices for protecting the human rights of women and indigenous peoples, and the Ombudsman's Office of Bolivia's role as a mediator."

2.3.1.4. Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The counterpart of the IIHR's Ombudsman and Human Rights Program for this activity was the Ombudsman of Bolivia, Waldo Albarracín. He designated Gabriela Justiniano, Deputy Ombudsman in charge of Special Programs and Emergency Actions, as the contact person.

Once the date for the activity had been set, the project staff contacted Liliana Ayalde, Director of USAID/Bolivia, and Karen Anderson, Director of Democratic Development of USAID/Bolivia, who worked closely with the IIHR to develop the academic program for the activity.

2.3.1.5. Intermediate Steps

The project staff:

1. Decided the subject matter of the seminar, the dates and the counterparts in Bolivia
2. Designed the academic program and methodology for the activity

3. Established the profile of the workshop participants (based on which the Ombudsman's Office selected them)
4. Sent out invitations to experts on the subjects to be addressed during the seminar, who served as professors and speakers
5. Implemented the logistical aspects of the activity (site of the activity, materials, plane tickets, accommodation for the participants, etc.)

2.3.1.6. Results or Outputs

At least 37 members of the staff of the Ombudsman of Bolivia received specialized training at this seminar-workshop, which focused on knowledge and practices for protecting the human rights of women and indigenous peoples and the institution's role as a mediator.

The activity also strengthened relations among the ombudsman's offices of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. The project promoted horizontal cooperation, as two of the professors at the seminar were ombudsman officials from Colombia and Peru.

A total of 110 people attended the public lecture on the rights of indigenous peoples under the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System.

2.3.1.7. Impact Indicators

“Progress made in consolidating the Ombudsman's Office of Bolivia, as a body with constitutional status responsible for promoting human rights”

“The Ombudsman's Office of Bolivia is better equipped to respond to the needs of its clients”

In the evaluation process carried out at the end of the training, the participants said they had found the content very relevant and useful for their day-to-day work and that the learning experience had been a very good one. They also said that the knowledge acquired at the seminar would be used in helping the people who make use of the services of the Ombudsman's Office day in and day out, especially women, indigenous peoples and other groups at risk.

These comments on the training effort show that the staff of the Ombudsman's Office did indeed benefit from the experience. They acquired new knowledge about the subjects addressed that they will put to good use immediately in their daily activities with the people who seek assistance from the ombudsman's offices located across the country.

The evaluation process consisted of a written questionnaire that the participants filled out at the end of the course and the opinions expressed by the participants during the closing ceremony.

Means of verification:

The following means of verification are attached to this report:

- a. Program of the activity
- b. List of participants
- c. Systematization of the results of the evaluation of the participants
- d. List of lecturers
- e. Invitation to the inaugural lecture

2.3.2. Support for the Ombudsman's Office of Peru

2.3.2.1. Description

A training activity was held for the staff of the Ombudsman's Office of Peru, from both the capital and the provinces. The aim was to strengthen their technical and political capabilities for human rights promotion, education and protection, with emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights. The Workshop-Seminar "Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the Agenda of the Ombudsman's Office of Peru" took place 10-13 May, at the request of the Ombudsman of Peru. It was held under the aegis of the Ombudsman's permanent training program.

2.3.2.2. Method

Some 50 members of the Ombudsman's staff took part in the seminar-workshop. Drawn from all parts of the country, their work directly involves ESCR.

A month before the activity, the participants took the online course on ESCR offered by the IIHR's Virtual Classroom. This introduced them to the subject and raised the academic level of the activity.

The experts who took part focused on issues such as the right to education and health, the intercultural approach of human rights, the actionability and enforceability of ESCR and the Ombudsman's strategies for defending and promoting them.

Vernor Muñoz, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right to education, gave a public lecture entitled "Challenges facing democratic systems with regard to ESCR: the right to education." Approximately 120 people attended, including the participants in the seminar-workshop, other officials from the Ombudsman's Office and special guests.

2.3.2.3. Background / Rationale

In Latin America, at least two factors are undermining the political system: the absence of good governance and the increasingly inequitable distribution of wealth.

These factors pose a threat to democratic stability and deny the citizenry the possibility of living a decent life. This is why efforts to make economic, social and cultural rights effective and actionable are so urgently needed. Input from several disciplines is required. In addition to legal experts, social scientists and economists need to contribute, to afford men and women a better quality of life. The ombudsman's offices should also play an active role, as the constitutional bodies responsible for safeguarding the comprehensive protection of human rights.

2.3.2.4. Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR's Ombudsman and Human Rights Program was responsible for coordinating this activity. The Institute's counterpart was the Ombudsman of Peru, Walter Alban. He designated Francisco Merino as his representative. Mr. Merino is the Commissioner for Territorial Promotion and Coordination of the Ombudsman's Office, and is also in charge of the Ombudsman School.

During the organization of the activity, the project maintained close communication with Kimberly Delaney, Director of the Democracy Office of USAID-Peru. Ms. Delaney was actively involved in the decisions taken regarding the academic program of the seminar and its organization.

2.3.2.5. Intermediate Steps

The project staff:

1. Decided the subject matter of the seminar, the dates and the counterparts in Bolivia
2. Designed the academic program and methodology of the activity
3. Established the profile of the participants in the workshop (based on which the Ombudsman's Office selected them)
4. Sent invitations to experts on the subjects to be addressed during the seminar, who served as professors and lecturers
5. Implemented the logistical aspects of the activity (site of the activity, materials, plane tickets, accommodation for the participants, etc.)

2.3.2.6. Results or Outputs

Fifty members of the staff of the Ombudsman of Peru received specialized training at this seminar-workshop, which focused on knowledge and practices for protecting economic, social and cultural rights.

The activity also strengthened the Ombudsman's School, as it formed part of its program.

Some 120 people attended the public lecture "Challenges facing the democratic systems with regard to ESCR: the Right to Education."

2.3.2.7. Impact Indicators

"International human rights law incorporated into more rulings and judgments"

"Staff of Peru's Ombudsman's Office is more knowledgeable and thus able to handle cases better"

After the seminar-workshop, the participants evaluated the process and highlighted the relevance of the issues addressed in the presentations. They rated the knowledge they had acquired and the *usefulness* of what they had learned very highly. They intended to use their new knowledge mainly in dealing with the cases of different populations (disabled people, boys and girls, women, indigenous peoples, civil servants, legal operators, etc.).

The evaluation process consisted of a written questionnaire that the participants filled out at the end of the course and the opinions expressed by the participants during the closing ceremony.

Means of verification:

The following means of verification are attached to this report:

- a. Program of the activity
- b. List of participants
- c. List of lecturers
- d. Systematization of the results of the evaluation of the course
- e. References to the online ESCR Course in the IIHR's Inter-American Virtual Classroom
- f. Invitation to the inaugural lecture

2.3.3. Support for the Ombudsman's Office of Paraguay

2.3.3.1. Description

As the first phase of the activity, a participatory assessment was conducted to provide a systemic overview of the weaknesses and strengths of the daily activities of the Ombudsman's staff, to determine what training they required. The assessment was carried out in March and April, once the terms of reference for the work had been agreed with the Ombudsman's Office.

The project then organized a course for the Ombudsman's staff, on the design of human rights training plans. It took place 10-13 May and was attended by 50 people (18 men and 38 women) from the different ombudsman's offices located across the country.

2.3.3.2. Method

A participatory assessment was conducted to provide a systemic overview of the weaknesses and strengths of the daily activities of the Ombudsman's staff, especially those who handle the complaints presented by its clients, to nurture the strengths and overcome the weaknesses by means of training activities.

A course was then held for the Ombudsman's staff, entitled "Seminar-Workshop on the design of training plans for defending human rights, channeling complaints and protecting community interests." The seminar took place 10-13 May and 50 members of the Ombudsman's staff took part.

On 10 May, an inaugural lecture was given on the Ombudsman's role in strengthening democracy. The speaker was the IIHR's Executive Director, Roberto Cuéllar M. The activity was attended by the officials taking part in the Seminar-Workshop, other members of the Ombudsman's staff and special guests, including officials from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and representatives of civil society entities. A total of 120 people took part.

The Seminar-Workshop focused on the topics proposed by the Ombudsman's Office - strategies for designing training plans to enable the ombudsman's offices to carry out their mission and the development of human rights training methodologies, especially the concept of education in human rights and for life in democratic societies.

The seminar included presentations by experts on the different topics, followed by question-and-answer sessions. Strategies were designed for work in groups, so the participants could draft proposals on innovative ways of improving their work (the development of human rights training plans and methodologies to enable them to perform their duties properly).

The Seminar-Workshop coincided with the 67th period of regular sessions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which was held in Asuncion. This made it possible for the participants to attend the public hearing in the case of the Mendoza Prisons vs. the State of Argentina, held at the Palace of Justice. Members of the Court and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights later gave presentations. The seminar participants thus gained first-hand experience of the bodies and workings of the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System.

As part of the horizontal cooperation promoted among the Latin American ombudsman, the Ombudsman of Bolivia, Waldo Albarracín, took part in a panel discussion with his Paraguayan counterpart on the scope, expectations and limitations of the mandate of the Ombudsman.

2.3.3.3. Background / Rationale

The Ombudsman's Office was created under Paraguay's 1992 Constitution. Law No. 631 "Organizational Law of the Ombudsman's Office" was enacted in 1995, and Law No. 838/96, "to compensate the victims of human rights violations that occurred during the dictatorship between 1954 and 1989," in 1996. Despite these legislative initiatives, no ombudsman was appointed until nine years after the National Constitution came into force.

The Ombudsman's Office is beginning its work at a time of serious economic and social difficulties. Against a backdrop of unsatisfied social and citizen demands, the Ombudsman's Office is acting as a bridge between society and the State. Therefore, it is essential to train the staff of the Ombudsman's Office, so they can assist citizens who wish to register complaints concerning rights' violations.

2.3.3.4. Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR's Ombudsman and Human Rights Program was responsible for coordinating this activity. The Ombudsman designated as the Institute's counterpart Sonia Fernández, General Secretary of the Ombudsman's Office.

Once the details of the activity had been decided, the staff contacted Wayne Nilsestuen, Director of USAID-Paraguay, to keep him informed of the organization and implementation of the event.

2.3.3.5. Intermediate Steps

The project staff:

- Defined the terms of reference for the participatory assessment
- Carried out the assessment and prepared the corresponding report
- Decided the subject matter of the seminar, the dates and the counterparts in Paraguay
- Designed the academic program and methodology of the activity
- Established the profile of the participants in the workshop (based on which the Ombudsman's Office selected them)
- Sent invitations to experts on the subjects to be addressed during the seminar, who served as professors and lecturers
- Implemented the logistical aspects of the activity (site of the activity, materials, plane tickets, accommodation for the participants, etc.)

2.3.3.6. Results or Outputs

The Ombudsman's Office of Paraguay now has an assessment establishing the main areas in which its staff requires training that could be used to develop further educational plans within the institution.

At least 50 officials received instruction in the design of training plans, the channeling of complaints and the protection of community interests.

Some 120 people attended the inaugural lecture of the Seminar-Workshop on the Ombudsman's role in strengthening democracy. The activity took place 10-13 May.

2.3.3.7. Impact Indicators

“Staff of the Ombudsman’s Office better equipped to develop training plans on human rights within the institution”

After the training activity, the participants were asked to evaluate the process. They rated the content as very relevant to their work, and the event as a whole as of great practical use and a great learning experience.

The participants intended to use their new knowledge by serving as multiplier agents in their respective offices and in their daily activities with the people who seek assistance from the Ombudsman.

The evaluation process consisted of a written questionnaire that the participants filled out at the end of the course and the opinions expressed by the participants during the closing ceremony.

Means of verification:

The following means of verification are attached to this report:

- List of participants
- Report on the assessment of the duties and responsibilities of the Ombudsman’s Office of Paraguay and the training needed to strengthen the institution
- Program of the seminar
- Invitation to the participants
- List of lecturers
- Invitation to the inaugural lecture

2.4. LESSONS LEARNED

One important achievement was the positive response and commitment of each of the counterparts selected by the IIHR.

The IIHR respected the annual internal training plans of the ombudsman’s offices and its activities were integrated into them. This proved to be a useful approach. For example, in Peru the IIHR rescheduled the training activity on ESCR. It was highly specialized and the Ombudsman’s Office asked that it be implemented *after* the two basic courses already planned. As a result, the staff of the institution got more out of the activity. The academic level of the seminar-workshop was higher, as the participants had already been introduced to the theoretical underpinnings of the subject.

Another important achievement was the use of cutting-edge technological resources, such as the IIHR’s Inter-American Virtual Classroom, to prepare the participants for the Seminar-Workshop in Peru. This was also a key factor in raising the academic level of the activity, since at least one month beforehand the participants were already studying the subject of economic, social and cultural rights.

In the case of the seminar-workshop in Paraguay, an important achievement was the fact that the participants were able to attend a hearing of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, held in Asuncion. This brought them into direct contact with the bodies of the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System and gave them first-hand experience of its procedures.

During the planning and implementation of these three seminars, ties among the different ombudsman’s offices were strengthened by the horizontal cooperation that took place.

3. PROJECT: EARLY WARNING AND RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM

3.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

A number of threats to democracy have already arisen in our countries this year. Internal political crises (e.g., in Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua), border conflicts such as the one between Colombia and Ecuador, and corruption scandals like the one in Brazil are only a few cases in point.

Bolivia became the eighth country in the region that has either a leftist government, or a leftist party that is expected to win the next elections.

In **Brazil**, the government was forced to launch a set of measures to combat corruption, as it faces various accusations regarding crimes committed in state-owned companies.

For the second time since the institution of the ombudsman was created in **Costa Rica**, Congress decided to postpone the appointment of the next ombudsman and deputy ombudsman. Inevitably, this will lead to a hiatus in the work of the institution, as in such cases its regulations authorize a board of directors to coordinate only its internal operations. The functions of senior officials are left in limbo. These include the presentation of appeals on the grounds of unconstitutionality and *recursos de amparo* (legal actions for the enforcement of rights), and the preparation of recommendations concerning violations of citizens' fundamental rights.

The precarious political situation in **Ecuador**, with a weak government that was not elected by popular vote and seems incapable of governing,² has led the country to use its foreign policy as a dangerous strategy: in the 2½ half months since the administration of Alfredo Palacio took office, it has had confrontations with Colombia, Peru and Venezuela. The conflict with Colombia is, without a doubt, the more complex, following the Ecuadorian government's declaration of neutrality with regard to the conflict with the FARC.

The Government of **Nicaragua's** dispute with Congress, on account of a constitutional amendment now in effect that takes away certain powers from the Executive Branch, has assumed the proportions of a crisis. The situation is so sensitive that the recently elected Secretary General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, is to head a high-level mission from 14 to 19 June, to evaluate the seriousness of the conflict, following the breakdown of the dialogue between the two parties.

Although during the reporting period (1 April - 20 May 2005) an IIHR team monitored events in the region, no countries were identified that required short-term specialized assistance, so there are no activities to report.

3.2 ANNUAL GOAL

To provide a technical and academic response, from the human rights perspective, to unforeseen, emergency situations that pose a threat to the rule of law and democratic governance, in at least one country in the region where USAID and the IIHR agree it is necessary.

² In the last seven years, three presidents have left office before the end of their term.

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

3.3.1 Description

During the reporting period (1 April - 20 May 2005), the IIHR did not identify any country where action was needed. The Institute therefore asked USAID to extend the life of the project. If approved, the IIHR will draft a work plan targeted at and/or incorporating the strategically important players and governmental and civil institutions involved, with a view to achieving the objectives proposed in the plan. The latter will vary, depending on the country and situation, given that this is a "rapid response" project. The work plan will include the activities to be implemented, the objectives, the schedule, the places where implementation will take place, the beneficiaries and the budget.

3.3.2 Method

The method to be used is set out in the annual plan approved for 2005. First, USAID or the IIHR will identify a country where an emerging situation calls for an immediate technical response by the Institute. If USAID and the IIHR are agreed as to the pertinence of the intervention, USAID will authorize the IIHR to take action as a component of this project.

3.3.3 Background / Rationale

As mentioned in the annual plan for 2005, the original objective under the USAID-IIHR general cooperation agreement was to develop a regional system to detect and remedy institutional weaknesses that posed a threat to human rights and democratic governance, paying special attention to the human rights situation.

The changeable situation in the Latin American and Caribbean countries was originally cited as the justification for this project. However, the information gathered by the IIHR while implementing its activities, and specific requests from various beneficiaries, USAID and other international cooperation agencies also confirmed how important it is to be able to provide a rapid, qualified response to different situations. As a result, in August 2003 the IIHR asked USAID to approve an amendment to the original design of the project, reducing it to a system for monitoring threats to human rights, in the specific field of citizen security. The funds allocated in the budget that had not been executed were reassigned to a "rapid response" project to tackle situations that both USAID and the IIHR feel require urgent action, for the remainder of the agreement (2005).

In September 2003, the first activity was implemented under this rapid response system. Targeted at the pre-electoral and electoral process in Guatemala, the direct beneficiaries were the local Elections Tribunal and the Office of the Ombudsman.

3.3.4 Institution(s) responsible and coordination

The IIHR's Executive Director is responsible for identifying the target country and situation. He will then ask the corresponding operating department to prepare and implement the action required. This will be coordinated directly with USAID-Washington.

3.3.5 Intermediate Steps

According to the plan approved for 2005, the intermediate steps continue to be:

- Identify a country and situation that warrant a rapid technical response from a human rights perspective
- Reach agreement with USAID-Washington, which authorizes the action
- Draft a work plan

3.3.6 Results or outputs

There are no results or outputs to report for the reporting period (1 April - 20 May 2005).

3.3.7 Impact indicators

“Implementation of a rapid response plan of action in a specific country to reduce threats to the effective exercise of human rights”

Since no short-term, specialized assistance activity was carried out, the progress achieved with regard to this performance indicator cannot yet be evaluated.

3.4 LESSONS LEARNED

As no activities were carried out, it is not possible to assess the lessons learned.

C. DEMOCRATIZATION OF POLITICAL PROCESSES

1. Project: Strengthening Electoral Institutions

1.1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The large number of important activities that the IIHR/CAPEL was required to carry out between April and June constituted an unprecedented challenge for the department. April began with a seminar and an advisory assistance mission in Colombia on the subject of electoral training, funded by the Swedish cooperation agency. This was followed by specialized presentations on the subject of political parties in Washington and a workshop on campaign financing in Santiago, Chile (under the Equal Representation Project). The next activities were the XI Conference of the Quito Protocol and the Workshop on the Strengthening of Political Parties in the Southern Cone (both held in Asuncion). The month concluded with the workshop on political parties in Mexico. Everything went smoothly and other equally important processes were not affected in any way. This demonstrates the department's capacity for work, good planning and the proper exercise of specific and shared responsibilities.

With regard to the Electoral Network, the staff finished updating the red-electoral@iidh.ed.cr database, a task that got under way during the first quarter. The personal details of the participants in the campaign financing workshop in Chile and the workshops on political parties in Paraguay and Mexico were incorporated (a total of **521** people). As mentioned in the previous report, the Electronic Forum on the Control of Campaign Spending began operating at the end of June. The papers produced for the XI Conference of the Quito Protocol (20-21 April), which focused on the function of electoral bodies in controlling campaign spending, were used as input for the Forum. The Forum began in June because the IIHR acquired new software for administering the forums on its website. The software was installed and tested during May.

The XIX Conference of the Tikal Protocol was due to be held in May or June. However, after discussing the matter with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala, which is hosting the activity, the date for the event was pushed back to September 2005, to coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the creation of the Tikal Protocol.

The exploratory mission to Chile was not carried out. At the workshop on campaign financing held in Chile in April, project staff were able to make direct contact with the Chilean electoral bodies and begin planning the observation of the presidential elections slated for December this year.

With regard to the project Technical Assistance to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Honduras, during the period under review the staff continued to give technical assistance to the TSE in preparing the General Elections scheduled for November this year, focusing on the areas of training and management and electoral logistics.

The Technical Assistance to Ecuador project was affected by the political turmoil the country has been going through since the end of last year (leading to a number of national officials being replaced, including the members of the Provincial Electoral Tribunals and most of the members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, on two occasions). In June, the Director of the IIHR/CAPEL visited the new President of the TSE and the USAID-Ecuador officials in charge of Democracy and Governance activities and the local Mission Director. Given the complex political situation, at the end of this quarter the IIHR asked USAID-Washington to extend the life of the project through December 2005.

It must be borne in mind that this project does not appear in the 2005 Work Plan. USAID and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador requested the project during the first quarter of year because of the new surplus mentioned and given the need to provide follow up to the progress achieved in 2004.

1.2. ANNUAL GOALS

The Strengthening Electoral Institutions project has two annual goals:

- To consolidate the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network aimed at strengthening electoral organizations
- To strengthen selected electoral organizations and those engaged in electoral and political reform processes in 2005

1.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

1.3.1. INTER-AMERICAN ELECTORAL NETWORK

1.3.1.1. Description

Composed of UNIORE's member organizations, the Network provides links for regular communication and information sharing. Civil society organizations (CSOs) with a stake in electoral issues (Lima Agreement), academics and members of political parties are also involved in this activity.

The Network operates year-round. During this quarter (April-June), it continued to facilitate information sharing and communication among its members, especially to a considerable number of new members who signed up at the various activities carried out, such as the

workshop on campaign financing in Chile and the workshops on political parties in Paraguay and Mexico.

1.3.1.2. Method

The Network's most concrete activities take place via the IIHR/CAPEL Web page. During this quarter, the address was changed from www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/redelectoral to www.iidh.ed.cr/capel, to make it easier for users to access the page. The organizations that make up the network of networks contributed information such as current national political and electoral legislation and details of changes in the membership of their governing bodies (e.g., the changes that took place in the Peruvian electoral bodies). In its capacity as the Executive Secretariat, the IIHR/CAPEL produced the UNIORE newsletters for March-April, May and June (in preparation). The Network also continued to provide virtual communication tools, such as the International Electoral News Service (SINE). The Electoral Tribunal of Panama prepares the information and it is then disseminated widely via email.

1.3.1.3. Background / Rationale

The IIHR/CAPEL continued to systematize information in its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol, 1985), of the Association of Electoral Bodies of South America (Quito Protocol, 1989) and of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE, 1991). The latter is comprised of the two associations plus the electoral bodies of Canada, the United States and Mexico.

The continuity of the electoral network made it possible to keep all the members abreast of the latest developments and, during this quarter in particular, to update the information to make it more effective and accurate.

1.3.1.4. Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, in coordination with the associations of electoral organizations and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama (SINE). Communication and contact with members of electoral bodies and CSOs involved in political and electoral issues, and with local USAID offices, for informational purposes or to identify joint initiatives.

1.3.1.5. Intermediate Steps

- The Election Calendar and the Directory of Electoral Bodies were updated and new papers sent in by electoral judges were uploaded to the Web page
- The IIHR/CAPEL and other institutions provided continuous input for SINE news items
- The Electronic Forum on the Control of Campaign Spending began operating on 30 June

1.3.1.6. Results or Outputs:

Electoral Network

The most important achievement was the simplification of the Web address, as the previous one was very long and many people found it hard to remember. Neither was it related directly to the IIHR/CAPEL program. The new address is www.iidh.ed.cr/capel. We are now in the

process of disseminating the new address. Visitors to the old Web page are redirected automatically to the new one.

“Associations of Electoral Bodies” Section

- *Tikal Protocol:*

The papers and presentations from the last two conferences were reorganized. Logos were created to distinguish between the conferences and the documents were organized in boxes.

- *Quito Protocol:*

The agreements, papers and presentations of the XI Conference were included. As in the case of the Tikal Protocol, the papers and presentations of the last two conferences were reorganized and logos and tables created.

- *UNIORE newsletters:*

The UNIORE newsletters for February (English), March-April (Spanish and English) and May (Spanish and English) were produced and uploaded to the Web page. The June issue is in preparation.

- *Directory of Electoral Bodies:*

Information on the following bodies was updated:

- National Electoral Court of Bolivia: the list of members was updated
- National Electoral Board of Colombia: the personal information on the President and Vice President was updated
- Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica: the list of judges was updated
- National Office of Electoral Processes of Peru: the list of officials was updated
- Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Honduras: the personal information on the President was updated
- Electoral Commission of Antigua and Barbuda: the list of officials was updated
- Supreme Electoral Tribunal of El Salvador: phone and fax numbers were updated because another digit was added
- Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of the Federation of Mexico: the list of judges was updated
- Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador: the list of officials was updated

“Legislation” Section

Bolivia’s amended Electoral Act was included.

“Publications” Section

A comparative table on the voting status of members of the military in Latin America was included in the “Data and statistics of interest” subsection.

“Projects” Section

Specific logos were inserted into the “Political Parties” subsection for each of the documents containing the conclusions of the workshops held with political parties in the Andean Region

and in Central America. A specific logo was also assigned to the research documents used as input for the workshops.

Electronic forum on the oversight function of electoral bodies

This forum began operating on 30 June. All the people on the distribution list of the Electoral Network were invited to sign up. The message sent to them briefly explained the reasons why the forum had been created, asked a number of basic questions and described the steps required to use the forum.

1.3.1.7. Impact Indicators:

“Network of electoral organizations in the region expanded and strengthened”

“More documentation and comparative experiences, which will be used as input for the work of the associations and research projects”

“Electoral organizations and other members of the Electoral Network have more up-to-date knowledge”

“Easier access to up-to-date political and electoral information”

During this quarter, the staff finished updating the database of the Electoral Network because some of the email addresses were no longer accurate. New members were included - people who signed up at the various activities carried out this quarter, such as the workshop on campaign financing in Chile and the workshops on political parties in Paraguay and Mexico.

The Web address was simplified. The previous one was very long and many people found it hard to remember. Nor was it related directly to the IIHR/CAPEL program.

Finally, the staff continued to upload the main papers and presentations from the conference held (Quito Protocol) and the documents containing the conclusions of the workshops on political parties held in the Andean Region and in Central America.

Means of Verification:

- Inter-American Electoral Network
- Two UNIORE newsletters (issues 48 and 49). March-April (Spanish and English) and May (Spanish and English). The June issue is in preparation
- Distribution lists (total of 521 people)
- IIHR/CAPEL Web page: www.iidh.ed.cr/capel

1.3.2. UNIORE NEWSLETTERS

1.3.2.1. Description

Two newsletters (issues 48 and 49) were distributed during this quarter (April-June). The newsletters for March-April and May were distributed in English and Spanish, while the June issue (#50) is in preparation.

The newsletters were distributed among the members of UNIORE, CSOs involved in electoral issues (particularly those of the Lima Agreement), certain organizations belonging to the Inter-

American Network for Democracy (RID), academics, members of political parties, donors and local USAID offices.

1.3.2.2. Method

The monthly newsletters for May and June were distributed electronically via the IIHR/CAPEL's specialized section, the IIHR's Web page and the SINE. These newsletters continue to increase horizontal cooperation among the electoral bodies, as they are a two-way communication tool. They include articles by UNIORE members who wish to share points of interest regarding specific national situations, or discuss emerging issues. The IIHR/CAPEL receives the information and produces the newsletters.

1.3.2.3. Background / Rationale

Produced in response to repeated requests from the electoral organizations for an expeditious means of disseminating information about important electoral developments in the western hemisphere, these newsletters have helped keep the target population informed of important matters related to political rights in the Americas. The newsletters are a permanent information strategy. Combined with the electronic links and electoral news service, they ensure that information circulates rapidly.

1.3.2.4. Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR/CAPEL, in coordination with the members of UNIORE. The information contained in the UNIORE newsletters is sent to, and shared with, USAID-Washington. The newsletters are emailed to the local USAID offices and to the members of the Inter-American Electoral Network.

1.3.2.5. Intermediate Steps

- Information continued to be compiled
- Graphic production and design of the material
- UNIORE newsletters posted on CAPEL's specialized section of the IIHR's website and the SINE
- The March-April and May newsletters were translated into English

1.3.2.6. Results or Outputs

Two monthly newsletters were produced during this quarter, for March-April (issue 48, in English and Spanish) and May (issue 49, in English and Spanish). The June issue (#50) is in preparation. These newsletters are available on the SINE and on CAPEL's specialized section of the Web page: www.iidh.ed.cr/cafel

1.3.2.7. Impact Indicators

“Electoral information disseminated more widely in the Americas”

“More documents and experiences shared on electoral topics and processes in the region”

“Users of the Network more conversant with electoral topics and processes in the region”

The mailing list for the Electoral Network and the UNIORE newsletters was updated. The publications were very well received during this quarter, particularly by new members. In emails received, users of the Network thanked the IIHR/CAPEL for sending them the information and endorsed the newsletters’ content.

Means of Verification:

- Inter-American Electoral Network (Web page)
- UNIORE newsletters (issues 48, 49 and 50)
- Distribution list (521 people)
- Emails sent to the IIHR/CAPEL

1.3.3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL OF HONDURAS

1.3.3.1. Description

The project consists of providing specialized advisory assistance to the TSE-Honduras and the Federation of Development Organizations of Honduras (FOPRIDEH) in the fields of electoral organization, training and citizen education. The activity is due to run from January through December this year, provided sufficient resources are available to cover the costs involved. The specific advisers will be selected depending on who is available and what their areas of specialization are. The idea is to adapt experiences like those of Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. Each advisory assistance activity will entail an evaluation of what has gone before and planning of what should be done next.

During this quarter, the project continued to provide technical assistance to the TSE in the run-up to the General Elections slated for November 2005, focusing on the areas of training and management and electoral logistics. It also continued to coordinate with FOPRIDEH and other civil society organizations, with a view to strengthening the activities they will be carrying out prior to the elections.

1.3.3.2. Method

Advisers specializing in educational matters and the design and implementation of election calendars will assist the TSE-Honduras and the Federation of Development Organizations of Honduras (FOPRIDEH).

During this quarter, the staff reached agreement with the TSE and USAID on the rescheduling of the activities to be implemented in the run-up to the 2005 General Elections.

1.3.3.3. Background / Rationale

The current comprehensive reform in Honduras involves changes in voting procedures, in the membership and functions of the TSE and in the election of lawmakers. For this reason, support is needed for at least two components of the new electoral process:

- Citizen education (with the participation of the NGO “FOPRIDEH”)
- Advisory assistance to the TSE regarding implementation of the schedule, with emphasis on training

The IIHR/CAPEL has collaborated previously and will be using the mechanism of horizontal cooperation, based on the contribution of electoral officials.

1.3.3.4. Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, with specific advisers for each component.

Communication and contact with the local USAID office, to keep it informed and coordinate the work.

Coordination with the TSE and FOPRIDEH.

1.3.3.5. Intermediate Steps

During this quarter:

- Consultants belonging to the team of specialists (Horacio Cánepa and Jaime Márquez) made regular visits.

1.3.3.6. Results or Outputs

Two reports on technical visits were produced during this quarter. Both are attached.

1.3.3.7. Impact Indicators

“The NGO FOPRIDEH trained to implement the National Voter Education Plan”

“TSE-Honduras staff updated regarding the election calendar, as a guide to the electoral process”

Since the project is ongoing, no results were achieved during this quarter that indicate progress toward the attainment of these indicators.

Means of Verification:

Mission reports. (Annexes 1 and 2)

1.3.4 XI CONFERENCE OF THE QUITO PROTOCOL

1.3.4.1 Description

The Conference was held 18-20 April in Asuncion, Paraguay, co-sponsored by the Higher Court of Electoral Justice (TSJE). Some 24 delegates from the Quito Protocol attended, plus

four people from the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL) and four experts on the subject matter (speakers). (See *Annex 3* with list of participants).

1.3.4.2 Method

The Secretariat convened the XI Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of South America (Quito Protocol). The theme of the Conference was “*The Oversight Function of Electoral Bodies*.” This included aspects such as control, the organization of accounting groups and relations with political parties. The participants also studied good practices. This issue was proposed as a ramification of the cost of elections, which was discussed at the last conference.

1.3.4.3 Background / Rationale

In its capacity as the Executive Secretariat, the IIHR/CAPEL negotiated the financing of the event with the Higher Court of Electoral Justice (TSJE). The host organization covers a large part of the costs of these events, but the specifics vary depending on the country and electoral body concerned. The basic philosophy, however, is one of shared responsibility. The theme of this year’s Conference was also decided during the negotiations. The IIHR/CAPEL proposed that the activity focus on the role of electoral bodies in controlling campaign spending and the TSJE agreed. The meetings of the electoral bodies serve a twofold purpose: to determine policies and establish the thrust of the associations’ work, and to discuss and update the agenda for advancing democracy in the region.

1.3.4.4 Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR/CAPEL, in coordination with the TSJE of Paraguay. Contact with local USAID office to keep it informed.

1.3.4.5 Intermediate Steps

The first step was to decide the date of the Conference. Agreement was then reached on the distribution of responsibilities between the IIHR/CAPEL and the TSJE of Paraguay. An official notification was sent to the members of the Association informing them of the date of the meeting. The speakers were selected in accordance with the theme. The papers that each participant would be presenting at the Conference were received. The staff also prepared a report on the work of the Executive Secretariat that was sent in advance to the members of the electoral bodies taking part in the Conference.

1.3.4.6 Results or Outputs

Agreements adopted at the Conference.

Systematized information about the oversight function of electoral bodies.

Updated assessments on the following topics: a. “The oversight function of electoral bodies to guarantee equity in the life of political actors and access to the media;” b. “The oversight function of electoral bodies to guarantee secure, efficient and equitable processes;” and, c. The oversight function of electoral bodies to guarantee equity and legality in the financing of political parties and election campaigns.

At least twenty delegates well informed about the subject.

1.3.4.7 Impact Indicators

“The electoral bodies have more specialized technical knowledge about the control of campaign spending”

“Progress made in updating the work program of the Association of Electoral Bodies”

“More and stronger alliances of electoral bodies for joint activities on technical electoral matters”

“Work program of the electoral bodies updated as a result of the formal agreements adopted at the Conference”

The XI Conference of the Quito Protocol took place 18-20 April, in Asuncion, Paraguay. The participants shared their ideas and experiences with regard to the core topic addressed at the activity, “The oversight function of electoral bodies.” They increased their knowledge of the subject thanks to a series of academic presentations on topics such as control, the organization of accounting groups and relations with political parties. They also studied good practices. The IIHR/CAPEL has posted most of the papers presented and the agreements taken at the Conference on its Web page.

The agreements include an updated work program (see www.iidh.ed.cr/capel).

The theme of the Conference was “The Oversight Function of Electoral Bodies.” In recent years, several members of the Association have undertaken institution-building processes and have had to address this issue from different perspectives (as part of their constitutional and legal responsibilities). In addition to expert presentations on the subject, the member organizations themselves presented diagnostic studies on the oversight function of their respective institutions. These covered practical, administrative and organizational matters, as well as interinstitutional coordination and jurisprudential considerations, where applicable.

A number of important agreements were adopted at the Conference. Among other things, the members:

- Acknowledged the efforts of electoral bodies in the region to modernize their institutions and implement technological initiatives designed to improve the efficacy, speed, security and transparency of the different stages of the electoral process. Of particular importance has been the application of new technologies to key technical areas, such as civil and electoral registries and voter lists, and the provision of horizontal cooperation where needed.
- Entrusted the Executive Secretariat with the task of studying, systematizing and disseminating among the members of the Association the rules related to the organization of electoral processes in South America. The aim is establish minimum technical standards and create reference models that could be adapted to the situation of each country.
- Collaborate with the Executive Secretariat by forwarding to it, via electronic media, legislation and other important information related to the organization of electoral processes, so it can be shared and accessed by the different members of the Association.
- Facilitate academic studies under the aegis of the Quito Protocol on issues that are a permanent part of the democratic agenda, such as new technologies that can be used in electoral processes, the internal democracy of political parties and the role of electoral

bodies in regard to this matter and the evaluation of the media's role in electoral processes.

To provide input for the discussions at the Conference, the electoral bodies were asked to prepare a national report on the current status of, and future challenges facing, democratic systems in South America, and a diagnostic study of the respective organization's oversight function.

The following countries presented a report: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The following countries presented a diagnostic study: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

Means of Verification

- Delegates and Participants in the Conference (*Annex 3*).
- Agreements of the Conference (posted on the CAPEL Web page).

1.3.5 WORKSHOP ON POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE SOUTHERN CONE

1.3.5.1 Description

The workshop took place 21-22 April, at the Sheraton Hotel in Asuncion, Paraguay. The event was held in this city and hotel immediately after the XI Conference of the Quito Protocol. Thus, the electoral judges from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay who wished to stay on for the workshop were able to do so, with a considerable saving in airfares. The counterpart organization was the Higher Electoral Court of Justice of Paraguay.

The roughly 46 participants came from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (no one was invited from Chile as the country had hosted the workshop for the Andean region). They were drawn from political parties, CSOs involved in political processes, academia and institutions directly involved in research and promotion on the organization and operation of parties, and members of cooperation agencies such as USAID/Paraguay. (See *Annex 4*)

Guests were also invited from international agencies and institutions interested in the strengthening of political parties in Latin America, such as Transparencia/Paraguay.

Many of the participants were senior party leaders who hold important positions on political committees or are lawmakers, senators or former vice presidents. Representatives of important CSOs took part (e.g., Poder Ciudadano of Argentina and Transparencia/Paraguay), as well as several members of electoral bodies in the region, including the presidents of the National Electoral Court of Argentina and the Electoral Court of Uruguay.

1.3.5.2 Method

As in the case of the previous workshops (Central America and the Dominican Republic and the Andean Region), before the workshop the participants were sent background material by email or fax (program, profile of the activity, fact sheet) and a working document that the organizers hoped would serve as the starting point for the discussions.

This document (*Political Parties in Central America: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened*) was written in such a way as to encourage the participants to think deeply

about the subject matter. It was not intended to provide all the answers needed to strengthen political parties, but to organize the topics in the best possible way and ask the most pertinent leading questions. Argentine political scientist Delia Ferreira was also asked to adapt the document to the situation in the Southern Cone. The document was also sent to the participants in advance and the expert outlined its main points at the start of the workshop.

This was followed by a thought-provoking 10-minute introduction to the three core topics to be discussed at the workshop: a) Institutionalization, b) Democratization and, c) Transparency. The participants then discussed the topics in groups before a final plenary session on each one. The facilitators/rapporteurs were selected ahead of time, so that the participants could focus on the discussions and on interacting during the work in groups.

The rapporteurs at the workshop were:

- Rotsay Rosales, a professor of the Master's Program in Political Sciences of the University of Costa Rica and FLACSO/Guatemala, an IIHR/CAPEL consultant
- Line Bareiro, a Paraguayan political scientist and director of the Documentation and Studies Center
- Romeo Pérez, a university professor from Uruguay
- José Guggiari, Director of the Area of Political Parties of the TSJE/Paraguay
- Delia Ferreira, an Argentine political scientist and IIHR/CAPEL consultant
- Stella Cacace, Executive Secretary of CODEHUPY/Paraguay
- Pablo Secchi, Head of *Poder Ciudadano's* "Action with Politicians" section
- Marcello Lachi, Head of the Political Financing and Election Campaigns Project of *Transparencia/Paraguay*

The information pertaining to the rapporteurs' reports and the plenary sessions is now being processed, and a General Report on this workshop is being prepared.

The documents distributed among the participants were complemented with a CD of the Electoral Dictionary and another containing a compilation of analysis and research on the internal democratization of political parties in Central America, Panama, the Dominican Republic and the Andean Region.

1.3.5.3 Background / Rationale

In March 2004, the IIHR/CAPEL held a workshop in Santiago, Chile to establish the priorities for the Andean Region. The core topics addressed were institutionalization, democratization and transparency in the life of political parties, with special emphasis on the subjects of permanence and professionalization, the redesign of structures and mechanisms to ensure representativeness and the management of financial resources and accountability, respectively.

The results of the workshop in the Andean Region were highly satisfactory and made it possible to produce a document containing conclusions that establishes an initial work plan that is not limited to the Andean Region but could be used as the basis for debates elsewhere in the Americas.

Another workshop was held in November 2004, this time in Central America. The research findings and conclusions from Santiago, Chile were used as the starting point for the discussions. Work priorities were set for this area, which the IIHR/CAPEL regards as requiring urgent attention to bolster the democratic system in the western hemisphere.

1.3.5.4 Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR-CAPEL team of specialists. Local USAID offices were also invited to the activity, both as participants and facilitators of the participation of people they felt should take part in an event of this nature. Steven Marma, of the Democracy Area of USAID/Paraguay, and Eduardo Bogado, project officer for local governments of USAID/Paraguay accepted the invitation. They also recommended that two other people take part: Carmen Romero, of the Anticorruption and Decentralization Program of *Alter Vida*, and Marcello Lachi, of the Political Financing and Electoral Campaigns Project of *Transparencia/Paraguay*.

1.3.5.5 Intermediate Steps

- Preparation of the methodology for the workshop.
- Preparation of a core working document and additional information to put the participants in the picture as regards the progress of research on this subject.
- Communication and coordination in the region with political parties, electoral bodies, CSOs, entities specializing in the subject, local USAID missions and other donor agencies, to determine who would take part in the event and then make the necessary arrangements.

1.3.5.6 Results or Outputs

The workshop provided a useful opportunity for sectors interested in strengthening political parties in the region to interact with each other. Primarily, the parties, the electoral organizations and other stakeholders. The activity was also used to find out what is - or is not - being done in each country, and what possibilities for action exist for the region as a whole.

The 46 participants constituted a basic network for disseminating and multiplying the core working document and the document adapted to the situation in the Southern Cone. Rather than a national or regional diagnostic study, the document was intended to stimulate reflection on the overarching issues on which the debate on party strengthening could focus in the immediate future, in terms of democratization in the broad sense.

A large number of detailed accounts, findings and initiatives on institutionalization, democratization and transparency related to the parties in the Southern Cone (now being processed). This input will pave the way for an inclusive, participatory agenda for the years ahead. This is very important not only for the stakeholders themselves, but also for international cooperation agencies. They will have input for designing policies based on the greatest needs and requirements of political parties, institutions that play such a key role in the democratic life of countries in the region.

1.3.5.7 Impact Indicators

“Political parties more knowledgeable about the internal democratization of parties themselves”

“Strengthening of ties between political parties and electoral bodies”

As planned, the active, participatory methodology used in this workshop made it possible to collect valuable information about institutionalization, democratization and transparency within political parties. The workshops held in 2004 in Central America and the Dominican Republic,

and in the Andean region, and the progress of related research on both Central America and Panama, and the specific cases of Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic, provided an excellent opportunity to report on the advances made in this field.

As in Costa Rica and Chile in 2004, the existence of a base document and a version adapted to the political conditions in the Southern Cone proved to be very useful for guiding and focusing the discussions in the workshops, and for sparking discussion and debate among the participants.

The group discussions and plenary sessions with the different participants, from political parties and electoral bodies, yielded highly useful information that is now being systematized and will soon be published in a specific report (in preparation). Valuable input specific to the region was collected on the core topics of institutionalization, democratization and transparency, how they are interrelated (how they both complement each other and overlap, and create certain frictions) and the lessons learned and problems that will require action in the future.

Means of Verification

List of participants (*Annex 4*).

Program of the workshop *Agenda for strengthening political parties in the Southern Cone* (*Annex 5*).

Working document, *Political Parties in the Andean Region: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened* (Accessible on the Web page and on file at the IIHR/CAPEL).

Document containing observations regarding the Southern Cone in light of the document *Political Parties in the Andean Region: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened* (Available on the Web page and on file at the IIHR/CAPEL).

Final Report on the workshop (in preparation).

CD containing the Electoral Dictionary.

CD containing a compilation of analysis and research on the internal democratization of political parties in Central America, Panama, the Dominican Republic and the Andean Region.

1.3.6 POLITICAL PARTY WORKSHOP IN MEXICO

1.3.6.1 Description

The workshop took place 28-29 April in Mexico City, at the Radisson Paraíso Hotel. This venue was chosen because of its proximity to the headquarters of the host electoral bodies, the Federal Electoral Institute and the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch, and the Colegio de México, which provided academic support for the activity.

The around 50 participants were representatives of political parties in the Federal District, CSOs involved in political processes, academia and institutions directly involved in research and promotion on the organization and operation of parties, and members of cooperation agencies such as the UNDP, the British Council and German foundations (see *Annex 6*). The political parties were well represented and new parties like *Convergencia* were allowed to send more delegates. New parties are very interested in training activities of this kind.

Many of the participants were middle-level leaders (treasurers, political action, international affairs, legal affairs) of their parties. The new parties, on the other hand, were represented by senior leaders. Representatives of foundations linked to the parties that provide training also took part. These included the Humanismo Político Foundation and the Rafael Preciado Foundation of the Partido Acción Nacional, and the Heberto Castillo Foundation of the Partido de la Revolución Democrática.

Important CSOs were also represented, such as the Colegio de México and the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch (some of whose judges took part).

Given the current political situation, many of the participants, in particular those not from political parties, did not attend the activity on the second day. This meant that the judges had to join the groups of political party representatives. Nevertheless, the debate was very fruitful and the level of the discussion was not affected - in fact, the judges' presence enhanced it.

1.3.6.2 Method

As in the case of the previous workshops (Central America and the Dominican Republic, the Andean Region and the Southern Cone), the participants were sent background material by email or fax (program, profile of the activity, fact sheet), along with a working document that the organizers hoped would serve as the starting point for the discussions

This document (*Political Parties in Central America: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened*) was written in such a way as to encourage the participants to think deeply about the subject matter. It was not intended to provide all the answers needed to strengthen political parties, but to organize the topics in the best possible way and ask the most pertinent leading questions. The General Academic Coordinator of the Colegio de México, Jean Francois Prud'homme, was also asked to adapt the document to the political situation and context in Mexico. This document was also sent to the participants ahead of time and Dr. Prud'homme outlined the main points at the start of the workshop.

The methodology was exactly the same as the one used for the previous workshops: a thought-provoking 10-minute introduction to the three core topics to be discussed at the workshop, namely: a) Institutionalization, b) Democratization and, c) Transparency, followed by work in groups on these topics and a final plenary session on each one. The facilitators/rapporteurs were selected ahead of time, so that the participants could focus on the discussions and on interacting during the work in groups.

The rapporteurs at the workshop were:

- Rotsay Rosales, a professor of the Master's Program in Political Sciences of the University of Costa Rica and FLACSO/Guatemala, and an IIHR/CAPEL consultant
- Álvaro Artiga, an academic of the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas of El Salvador, an IIHR/CAPEL consultant
- Manuel Carrillo, Coordinator of International Affairs of the IFE
- Yolli García Álvarez, Recording Secretary of the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch
- Enrique A. Zaldivar, Recording Secretary of the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch
- Víctor Manuel Rosas, Recording Secretary of the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch

Project staff are now processing the information related to the rapporteurs' reports and the plenary sessions, and preparing a General Report on the workshop.

The documents distributed among the participants were complemented with a CD containing the Electoral Dictionary and another containing a compilation of analysis and research on the internal democratization of political parties in Central America, Panama, the Dominican Republic and the Andean Region.

1.3.6.3 Background / Rationale

Thanks to the findings of the research on the strengthening of political parties (Central America/PRODECA and studies in Bolivia, Chile and Dominican Republic), the IIHR/CAPEL is in a position to contribute analysis and concrete proposals for further progress on this issue, which is key to the stability of democratic systems in the Americas. The party system is in crisis and ideas are needed on how to overcome the skepticism and mistrust with which the activities of parties are viewed by most people in this hemisphere.

In March 2004, the IIHR/CAPEL held a workshop in Santiago, Chile to establish the priorities for the Andean Region. The activity focused on institutionalization, democratization and transparency in the life of political parties, with special emphasis on the subjects of permanence and professionalization, the redesign of structures and mechanisms to ensure representativeness, and the management of financial resources and accountability, respectively.

The results of the workshop in the Andean Region were highly satisfactory and made it possible to produce a document containing conclusions that establishes an initial work plan that is not limited to the Andean Region but could be used as the basis for debates elsewhere in the Americas.

Another workshop was held in November 2004, this time in Central America. The research findings and conclusions from Santiago, Chile were used as the starting point for the discussions. Work priorities were set for this area, which the IIHR/CAPEL regards as requiring urgent attention to bolster the democratic system in the western hemisphere.

The same strategy was used for the workshops in Paraguay and Mexico.

1.3.6.4 Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists and the electoral bodies of Mexico: the Federal Electoral Institute and the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch of Mexico. The staff also coordinated with the Colegio de México, through its General Academic Coordinator, Jean Francois Prud'homme.

The local USAID offices were also invited but, unfortunately, they were unable to take part. Those who did included representatives of international cooperation institutions, such as Dong Nguyen, International Coordinator of the UNDP's Electoral Observation Project and Gabriela Capó, of the British Council.

1.3.6.5 Intermediate Steps

- Preparation of the methodology for the workshop
- Preparation of a core working document and additional information to put the participants in the picture as regards the progress of research on this subject

- Communication and coordination with Mexico's political parties, electoral bodies, CSOs, entities specializing in the subject, the local USAID mission and other donor agencies, to determine who would take part in the event and then make the necessary arrangements. In particular, the staff worked very closely with the Federal Electoral Institute and the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch of Mexico, as they maintained permanent contact with the political parties by means of their respective databases

1.3.6.6 Results or Outputs

The workshop provided a useful opportunity for sectors interested in strengthening political parties in Mexico to interact with each other. Primarily, the parties, the electoral organizations and other stakeholders.

The activity was also used to ascertain what is - or is not - being done within each party, their training experiences and their priorities for action.

The 50 participants constituted a basic network for disseminating and multiplying the core working document and the document adapted to the situation in Mexico. Rather than a national assessment, the latter was intended to stimulate reflection on the overarching issues on which the debate on party strengthening could focus in the immediate future, in terms of democratization in the broad sense.

A large number of detailed accounts, findings and initiatives on institutionalization, democratization and transparency with respect to the parties in Mexico (now being processed). This input will be used to pave the way for an inclusive, participatory agenda for the years ahead. This is very important not only for the stakeholders themselves, but also for international cooperation agencies. They will have input for designing policies based on the greatest needs and requirements of political parties, institutions that play such a key role in the democratic life of Mexico.

1.3.6.7 Impact Indicators

“Political parties more familiar with the issues involved in their own internal democratization”

“Stronger links between political parties and electoral bodies”

As planned, and as at the workshop in the Southern Cone, the active, participatory methodology used in this workshop made it possible to collect valuable information about institutionalization, democratization and transparency within political parties. The workshops held in 2004 in Central America and the Dominican Republic, and in the Andean region, and the progress of related research on both Central America and Panama, and the specific cases of Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic, provided an excellent opportunity to report on the progress made in this field.

As in Costa Rica and Chile in 2004, and Paraguay in 2005, the existence of a base document and a version adapted to the political situation in Central America proved to be very useful for guiding and focusing the discussions in the workshops, and for sparking discussion and debate among the participants.

The group discussions and the plenary sessions with the different participants, from political parties and electoral bodies, yielded highly useful information that is now being systematized

and will soon be published in a specific report, which is already being drafted. Valuable input specific to Mexico was collected on the core topics of institutionalization, democratization and transparency, how they are interrelated (how they both complement each other and overlap, and create certain frictions) and the lessons learned and problems that will require action in the future.

Means of Verification

List of participants. (*Annex 6*).

Program of the workshop Agenda for strengthening political parties in Mexico (*Annex 7*).

Working document *Political Parties in Central America: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened* (Available on the Web page and on file at the IIHR/CAPEL).

Document containing observations regarding Mexico in light of the document *Political Parties in Central America: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened* (available on the Web page and on file at the IIHR/CAPEL).

Final Report on the Workshop (in preparation).

CD containing the Electoral Dictionary.

CD containing a compilation of analysis and research on the internal democratization of political parties in Central America, Panama, the Dominican Republic and the Andean Region.

1.4 LESSONS LEARNED

The intense level of activity continued this quarter, in regard to both the direct collaboration with the electoral bodies and the consultations with political parties aimed at developing a strategy to strengthen them. In the case of the electoral bodies, the XI Conference of the Quito Protocol provided an opportunity to discuss the oversight responsibilities of electoral bodies, highlighting strong and weak points that also have to do with the life of political parties and how they are financed. The conference also afforded the IIHR/CAPEL an important opportunity to make further contacts for the intensive program of observation work it will be carrying out between the end of 2005 and during the whole of next year. The event was also useful for involving the electoral bodies further in the ongoing efforts to strengthen political parties, generating interaction to increase the impact of the studies and conclusions that have been obtained.

The IIHR/CAPEL also realized during this quarter that, despite the progress made, the time has come to restructure the electronic link of its electoral network, not only to incorporate the initiative on political parties but also to adapt to the needs of new users and tap the new technologies available.

A period of intense work such as the one described, which included the continuity of specific projects and progress on more general matters, called for careful planning and execution, with only minor changes made in the work plans for this quarter.

Especially important were the two consultations with political parties held in Asuncion and Mexico City. The IIHR/CAPEL now has a great deal of input garnered from all of continental Latin America and the Dominican Republic. The results are still being processed and compared, but the staff can already visualize many possibilities for future action to strengthen political parties. The latest consultations, following those held in Santiago, Chile (March 2004)

and San Jose, Costa Rica (November 2004), complete a very broad exercise and give renewed legitimacy to the strategic plan and action plan that the IIHR/CAPEL will soon be completing.

No other organization has conducted such a wide geographic consultation with the direct involvement of so many representatives of political parties.

Activities financed by other sources of international cooperation made it possible to extend the IIHR/CAPEL's action to Colombia during this quarter. Electoral officials were trained at a workshop held for the National Registry in April, and a day of discussions with political parties took place in Medellin on 28 June. In both cases, the inputs developed under the USAID agreement were used, thereby increasing the scope of the impact of the activities.

PROJECT: STRENGTHENING OF ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS

SCHEDULE FOR 2005 – Updated June 2005

[illegible]

[illegible]

2. PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM

2.1 General Framework

During this quarter (April-June 2005), guest researcher and Democracy Fellow David Kupferschmidt concluded his secondment to the project, during which he helped draft a strategic plan for promoting political party reform in the region. Mr. Kupferschmidt worked with Carlos Ávila, a former Minister of Education of Honduras and consultant hired by the IIHR/CAPEL to support this effort. They concluded a first draft in Spanish that will be circulated for feedback and then revised, as major changes will have to be made to it.

A seminar took place 15 April in Santiago, Chile, entitled "Evaluation of the Implementation of the Law on Transparency, Controls and Limits on Election Spending." The activity formed part of the project *Workshops on Political Campaign Reform in Chile*, which the IIHR/CAPEL is implementing with *PARTICIPA* and Chile's Electoral Service.

With regard to the activity "*Concrete proposals to promote and disseminate the internal democratization of political parties*" (encompassing Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic), the working meeting originally programmed for March this year in Costa Rica had to be rescheduled again, this time for 27-28 July. Distinguished experts on the subject, who will be in Costa Rica at that time working on other IIHR academic activities, will now be able to take part. Although the democratization meeting was not held during this quarter, a draft report on the research is attached. (*Annex 1*)

With regard to the *Web page*, during this quarter project staff and the Information and Editorial Services Unit established the minimum standards for the new specialized section. Suppliers were asked to submit quotations for setting up the cyber center for specialized information and communication, to support a network of members of political parties in Latin America. The respective quotations have not yet been received.

Finally, talks got under way concerning the specialized textbooks that are to be published on institutionalization, democratization and transparency. The publication project kicks off in July.

1.2. ANNUAL GOAL

Implementation of national pilot projects, with their respective academic backup, in at least one country in the region, that could be replicated in other countries, based on the development of a Strategic Plan for the strengthening, democratization and transparency of political parties

1.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

1.3.1. PREPARATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

1.3.1.1 Description

The work of drafting the strategic plan was originally supposed to get under way in January 2005. In February, USAID selected David Kupferschmidt, who began to work with the project on 3 March. On 9 March, Mr. Kupferschmidt was joined by Honduran consultant Carlos Ávila, a former Minister of Education and bank executive in his native country, who has experience in the area of strategic planning. Together, they prepared a conceptual proposal for a possible strategy for the IIHR/CAPEL. This draft was discussed with the senior management and the IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists throughout this quarter. On 14 June, the Democracy Fellow and the consultant presented a preliminary version of the strategic plan to the IIHR/CAPEL

team, which is now being studied. As the document is still no more than a very rough draft, changes will have to be made before it can be submitted to a small group of experts.

1.3.1.2 Method

The strategic plan was prepared by the Democracy Fellow and consultant Carlos Ávila, working very closely with the IIHR/CAPEL team - presenting drafts and drawing on the materials, documents and publications that the IIHR/CAPEL has produced on the subject, and holding one-on-one and larger meetings with IIHR/CAPEL officials. The Democracy Fellow also took part in emblematic activities during this quarter, such as the subregional workshops on the strengthening of political parties in the Southern Cone and Mexico.

1.3.1.3 Background / Rationale

Over the years, the IIHR/CAPEL has accumulated considerable experience in the field of political parties, studying them as an integral part of the democratic system in Latin America. In the last two years, the IIHR/CAPEL has carried out specific research that has laid the groundwork for a program for strengthening political parties. Workshops have already been held to validate this initiative with the political parties themselves. The next step is to convert these proposals into a comprehensive strategic plan that will identify stages, opportunities, sources of financing, etc.

1.3.1.4 Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, in coordination with a Democracy Fellow and a consultant. Communication with USAID.

1.3.1.5 Intermediate Steps

During this quarter, a rough draft was produced that requires further work. As a result, the planned meeting of experts could not be held.

1.3.1.6 Results or Outputs

A very rough first draft of a strategic plan that will need to be worked on further

1.3.1.7 Impact Indicators

“IIHR/CAPEL has enhanced technical capabilities for its strategic efforts to strengthen political parties”

As the strategic plan has still not been completed, it is impossible to gauge the impact.

Means of Verification:

Not applicable

1.3.2. WORKSHOPS ON POLITICAL CAMPAIGN REFORM

1.3.2.1 Description

Law N° 19,884 on “Transparency, Controls and Limits on Election Spending” came into force for the October 2004 local elections. The legislation regulates election spending by candidates and political parties in Chile during electoral processes.

It places caps on the spending of political parties and candidates and makes the Electoral Service responsible for enforcing compliance with the limits imposed. The Service now regulates donations made to candidates and establishes the State's contribution to the financing of candidates' campaigns.

Five months after the elections, when the Electoral Service had compiled all the information about the funds spent by the different candidates, it was extremely important to analyze the implementation of the new law, especially as it will also apply to the December 2005 presidential and parliamentary elections.

The aim of the organizers of the seminar - the IIHR/CAPEL, the Electoral Service of Chile and *PARTICIPA* - was to contribute to the consolidation of democracy in Chile, pooling efforts to discuss the best legislation that can be adopted on this subject. It is a very complex technical issue that requires an additional effort to plug the gaps that existed previously. The seminar, entitled "Evaluation of the implementation of the Law on Transparency, Controls and Limits on Election Spending," took place 15 April in Santiago, Chile.

1.3.2.2 Method

In 2004, the IIHR/CAPEL and *PARTICIPA* implemented a project on the monitoring of campaign spending. They scrutinized political advertising to gauge the effectiveness of the system of monitoring created under the new law and ascertain whether the legal instruments currently in place were valid. The project also consulted political stakeholders about the efficacy of the system.

This consultation provided input for a workshop to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the system, with a view to modifying or consolidating it.

1.3.2.3 Background / Rationale

New legislation regulating campaign financing came into force for the local elections held 31 October 2004. It will also apply to the December 2005 presidential elections. The 2004 local elections were used to test the effectiveness of the new law.

In 2004, the IIHR/CAPEL and Chilean NGO *PARTICIPA* implemented a project to monitor campaign spending that included a contribution from the Ministry for Home Affairs (which has electoral officials). *PARTICIPA* has been monitoring the use of the media in election campaigns since 2001.

1.3.2.4 Institution(s) Responsible and Coordination

The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, in coordination with Chilean NGO *PARTICIPA* and Chile's Ministry for Home Affairs. The work was carried out with support from USAID-Washington and OXFAM.

1.3.2.5 Intermediate Steps

PARTICIPA and the Electoral Service coordinated all the preparatory activities and consulted the IIHR/CAPEL about them, to ensure that the parties were agreed about the execution of each step in the process. This included the choice of panel discussions and panel members for the event and the guest list.

The preparatory activities consisted of the design of the event (the objective, the work program, the issues to be discussed and the members of the respective panels).

1.3.2.6 Results or Outputs

One of the results or outputs during this quarter was the implementation of the seminar “Evaluation of the Implementation of the Law on Transparency, Controls and Limits on Election Spending.”

1.3.2.7 Impact Indicators

“Campaign reform in Chile evaluated”

“Recommendations aimed at strengthening or amending financing rules implemented”

In the seminar “Evaluation of the implementation of the Law on Transparency, Controls and Limits on Election Spending,” the application of the legislation in the local elections held in October 2004 was analyzed from the perspective of the government, the Electoral Service, academia, civil society and comparative experiences.

The participants also discussed and proposed, based on the assessment carried out, the aspects of the current legislation that require changes to improve its operation and ensure that election spending is increasingly transparent and equitable for the different political protagonists.

Means of Verification:

- Report on the Seminar (*Annex 2*)

2. LESSONS LEARNED

This quarter saw the arrival of the guest researcher (Democracy Fellow) who worked on the first draft of the strategic plan for political parties. He took part in the workshops with political parties held in Paraguay and Mexico (under the Strengthening Electoral Institutions Project), consulting the different parties present. Carlos Ávila was also hired. A Honduran consultant specializing in strategic plans, he served as Minister of Education under President Ricardo Maduro. They produced a draft strategic plan that will now have to be studied and restructured. The guest researcher arrived late and the time available for preparing the plan was limited. As a result, the project staff realized that more time was needed to develop a plan of this magnitude, which must incorporate the results of the IIHR/CAPEL’s work in this field over the last three years.

During the final stage of the research on the democratization of political parties in Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic, conclusions are being reached that are very important not only for the three countries concerned but for the IIHR/CAPEL’s overarching strategy for strengthening political parties. Both areas of progress and weaknesses were identified with regard to democratization, placing the IIHR/CAPEL in the forefront as far as work on political parties is concerned. This research has also provided important input for the strategic plan. Combined with the consultations outlined under the previous component (Strengthening Electoral Institutions Project), the IIHR/CAPEL now has specialized knowledge on political parties that will stand it in good stead for work in this field for the next 3-5 years.

As a result of the research and consultations with political parties, the projection of the specialized publications that will be produced and the embryonic strategic plan, the

IIHR/CAPEL believes it is quite well placed to influence other levels of the life of political parties in Latin America.

The coordination efforts involved in implementing the seminar "Evaluation of the Implementation of the Law on Transparency, Controls and Limits on Election Spending in Chile" demonstrated the strengths and efficacy of the strategy of activating specialized networks. The IIHR/CAPEL regards the latter as extremely important. In addition to involving the Electoral Service and the Electoral Court in this important task of controlling election spending, a fruitful relationship was established with the specialized NGO *PARTICIPA*. This resulted in a wide variety of the country's academics and politicians becoming interested in this issue, which is of key importance for the present stage of democracy in Chile. The activity had a major impact both in academic terms and in promoting political rights. It repositioned on the public agenda a subject of vital importance in the run up to the December 2005 presidential elections.

The Director of the IIHR/CAPEL took part in a conference on action with political parties, in Washington (see UNIORE newsletter #48). This proved to be important and the IIHR/CAPEL is now better placed and more qualified to share experiences with institutions that have been involved in this area for longer. This is especially important in the case of the democratization of political parties. The IIHR/CAPEL's studies have focused on issues that have barely been touched on before in projects that have to do with Latin American political parties.

PROJECT EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM

SCHEDULE FOR 2005 – Updated June 2005

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